

29 December 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Dulcolax® (bisacodyl) 5mg and 10mg suppositories**

**Priority: Level 2\* - update to MSAN(2020)111**

**Valid until: various, see table below**

#### **Issue**

1. Due to changes in the availability of bisacodyl suppositories, we have provided updated information within this communication.
2. Please see a supply overview for bisacodyl suppositories below:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Current Stock Position</b>	<b>Anticipated resupply date</b>
Bisacodyl 5mg suppositories	Sanofi	Out of stock	<b>Early January 2021</b>
Bisacodyl 10mg suppositories	Sanofi	<b>Out of stock</b>	<b>Limited supplies expected January 2021, full resupplies expected in March 2021.</b>
	<b>Martindale</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>	<b>N/A</b>

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
  - review if treatment is still required;
  - consider switching to alternative preparations (see additional information section below); and
  - counsel patients on the different products and dosing regimen prescribed.

#### **Additional Information**

4. Please refer to the [BNF](#) or [BNFc](#) for selection of alternative laxative.
5. If bisacodyl suppositories are being used for bowel clearance before surgery or radiological investigations, consult local guidelines or unit conducting the procedure for consideration of alternative agent (e.g. senna and sodium picosulfate).

#### **Enquiries**

6. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).