



6 March 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Salbutamol 2mg/5mL syrup – update to MSAN (2020)5

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: end March 2020

Issue

1. Salbutamol 2mg/5mL syrup is out of stock until **the end of March 2020**.
2. Salbutamol 2mg and 4mg tablets remain available.
3. Unlicensed imports of salbutamol 2mg/5mL syrup are available from Alium Medical and Clinigen (there may be other companies that can also source supplies).

Advice and Actions

4. Pharmacy teams should consider sourcing and supplying the unlicensed import of salbutamol 2mg/5mL syrup for patients with insufficient supplies during this time.
5. Alternatively, salbutamol 2mg or 4mg tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water. Please note, this is unlicensed practice. If this option is deemed appropriate, prescribers and pharmacists should ensure that patients and their carers are advised appropriately on how to prepare and administer the dose correctly, particularly if a part dose is required.
6. Further advice on alternative options can be found in the UK Medicines Information (UKMi) memo: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-salbutamol-syrup-2mg-5ml/>

Additional Information

7. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Board local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC);
 - [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA); and
 - [Professional guidance for the procurement and supply of specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

Enquiries

8. Any enquiries should be directed to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot