



12 March 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Salofalk® (mesalazine) 500mg and 1g suppositories – update to MSAN (2019)12**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: mid-September 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Salofalk® 500mg suppositories are out of stock until **mid-April 2020**. Salofalk® 1g suppositories are out of stock until **mid-September 2020**.
2. Pentasa® (mesalazine) 1g suppositories remain available during this period.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. In the absence of Salofalk® suppositories the most practical short-term management option is to convert patients to Pentasa® suppositories.
4. For patients being treated with the 1g strength, it is a straight forward conversion – the dose regimen is identical for both brands.
5. For patients being treated with the 500mg strength, patients could be receiving doses ranging from 500mg twice daily through to 1g three times a day. Suggested dose changes are as follows:
  - For patients without sufficient supplies of Salofalk® suppositories to last until the resolution date, prescribers may consider switching to Pentasa® suppositories.
  - The table below can be used to support dose conversion between brands:

<b>Salofalk®: Existing regimen</b>	<b>Pentasa®: Proposed regimen</b>
1g daily	1g daily
500mg twice daily	1g daily
500mg three times daily	Either 1g daily (within licence) or 1g twice daily (off label)
2 x 500mg suppositories twice daily	1g twice daily (off label)
2 x 500mg suppositories three times daily	1g three times daily (off label)

#### **Additional Information**

6. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board 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);
  - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

## **Enquiries**

7. 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.net](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net) (secondary care).