



16 March 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Promazine 25mg and 50mg tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: Mid-April 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Promazine 25mg and 50mg tablets are out of stock.
2. Anticipated resupply date of mid-April 2020.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. For patients with insufficient supplies during this period, clinicians may wish to review to establish if continued treatment is still required (see UKMi advice below) and if it is then either:
  - prescribe promazine 25mg or 50mg tablets as an unlicensed product (see section 5 for advice); or.
  - prescribe promazine 25mg/5mL or 50mg/5mL oral syrup (available from Rosemont Pharmaceuticals) which is a licensed product.

#### **Additional Information**

##### **4. UKMi Advice**

UKMi have advised the following management guidelines for reviewing patients on Promazine 25mg and 50mg tablets:

- Promazine is an antipsychotic drug from the phenothiazine class (group 1), which is generally characterised by pronounced sedative effects. It is licensed for the management of agitation and restlessness in the elderly, and as short-term adjunctive management of psychomotor agitation.
- In elderly patients with dementia, antipsychotic drugs are associated with a small increased risk of mortality and an increased risk of stroke or transient ischaemic attack, therefore they are not recommended to treat mild to moderate psychotic symptoms.
- Patients on long term treatment should be reviewed and treatment stopped if they are not getting a clear ongoing benefit from taking them **and** after discussion with the person taking them and their family members/ carers. In people living with dementia, psychosocial and environmental interventions are the preferred management options to reduce distress.
- Antipsychotics should only be considered for people living with dementia who are either at risk of harming themselves or others or they are experiencing agitation, hallucinations or delusions that are causing them severe distress. If treatment is considered necessary, a licensed oral solution is available, as are unlicensed imports.

## 5. Guidance on ordering, prescribing and dispensing unlicensed imports:

- The following specialist importers have currently confirmed availability of unlicensed promazine 25mg and 50mg tablets (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Mawdsleys
  - Alium
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or 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)
  - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

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