



13 March 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Clonidine 25 microgram tablets

Priority: Update to MSAN (2019)28

Valid until: End April 2020

Issue

1. Limited supplies of clonidine 25 microgram tablets will be available until at least the **end of April 2020** due to manufacturing issues.
2. The specialist importer companies Target Healthcare Ltd and Mawdsley's have confirmed they can source unlicensed supplies of clonidine 25 microgram tablets. Please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies.

Advice and Actions

3. Where clonidine 25 microgram tablets are unavailable, prescribers should consider:
 - prescribing an unlicensed import of clonidine 25 microgram tablets (see paragraph 5 below); or
 - switching patients to clonidine 50 microgram/5ml liquid during this time; or
 - prescribing clonidine 100 microgram tablets (last line option, see paragraph 5 below).
4. Where clonidine is used for the management of migraine prophylaxis or vasomotor symptoms in menopause, prescribers should also consider switching to a recommended alternative as an option.

Additional Information

5. 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).
6. As a last line option, clonidine 100 microgram tablets can be prescribed, and tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water to deliver a part dose. Please note, this is unlicensed practise. If this option is deemed appropriate, prescribers and pharmacists should ensure that patients and their carers are counselled appropriately on how to prepare and administer the dose required accurately.
7. Further advice on alternative options can be found in the UK Medicines Information (UKMi) memo: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-clonidine-25microgram-tablets/>.

Enquiries

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