

9 April 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Cycloserine 250mg capsules**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: TBC**

#### **Issue**

1. Cycloserine 250mg capsules are out of stock; resupply to be confirmed.
2. There are no other licensed strengths of cycloserine currently marketed in the UK.
3. Unlicensed imports of cycloserine 250mg capsules are available.
4. The following specialist importers have currently confirmed they can source unlicensed cycloserine capsules (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies): Alium Medical; Clinigen; Mawdsleys; Target Healthcare Ltd; WEP Clinical.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. For patients with insufficient supplies to complete their treatment course or for newly initiated patients, clinicians should consider prescribing an unlicensed import of cycloserine 250mg capsules (see supporting information below).
6. Where unlicensed imports of cycloserine are not considered appropriate, please consider the advice from the British Thoracic Society below.

#### **Clinical Recommendations - British Thoracic Society, expert advice:**

- Cycloserine is indicated for treatment of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) and is included as one of the first line drugs in the World Health Organisation (WHO) regimen within group B. Therefore, all patients should be offered cycloserine as part of the treatment regimen when a new diagnosis of MDR TB is made.
- The only other alternative to cycloserine is terizidone (group B) which is a derivative of cycloserine however this is not currently licensed in the UK and unlicensed importers have not been able to source supplies currently.
- A group C drug (as per WHO regimen) can be added in place of cycloserine, however, this may not be as efficacious.
- Therefore, the recommendation is that unlicensed supplies of cycloserine should be used as the initial alternative option before opting for another agent.

#### **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](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot)