



30 April 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Sulfasalazine 250mg/5mL oral suspension (Rosemont)**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: End August 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Sulfasalazine 250mg/5mL oral suspension is out of stock until August 2020.
2. Sulfasalazine 500mg tablets remain available.
3. Some Specials manufacturers are able to produce an unlicensed sulfasalazine 250mg/5mL oral suspension.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. For patients with insufficient supplies, clinicians should consider prescribing non-enteric coated sulfasalazine 500mg tablets which are scored and can be halved and if necessary crushed (see additional information below for further details).
5. Patients taking doses that are not in increments of 250mg should be reviewed by a doctor and the dose adjusted to increments of 250mg where possible.
6. If sulfasalazine 500mg tablets are not appropriate or a dose adjustment to increments of 250mg is not possible, consider prescribing unlicensed sulfasalazine 250mg/5mL oral suspension available from Specials manufacturers (see additional information below for further details).

#### **Additional Information**

7. UK Medicines Information have advised that all non-enteric coated preparations of sulfasalazine 500mg tablets are scored and can be halved. If the patient cannot swallow the half tablet, then it can be crushed and mixed in 15-30mL water or a soft foodstuff and swallowed. The crushing of the tablet will be an unlicensed use of the medicine.
8. The following Specials manufacturers have currently confirmed they can manufacture sulfasalazine 250mg/5mL oral suspension (please note, there may be other companies that can also manufacture):
  - Eaststone Ltd
  - IPS Pharma
  - Lexon UK Ltd
  - Nova Laboratories Ltd
  - TEMAG Pharma
9. 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**

10. 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).