



30 April 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

H2-antagonists (cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine)

Priority: Level 2* update to MSAN (2020)25

Valid until: various, see below

Issue

1. Following supply issues affecting Ranitidine (MSAN (2019)22, and subsequent updates), suppliers of cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine have reported an increase in demand, which has contributed to short term shortages.

- There is **limited stock** of famotidine 20mg tablets until **w/c 18 May 2020 (Teva)**; next resupply is **to be confirmed (Tillomed)**.
- There is **limited stock** of famotidine 40mg tablets until **June 2020 (Teva)**; next resupply is **to be confirmed (Tillomed)**.
- Cimetidine 200mg tablets are **back in stock** with **Ennogen**; **Medreich** are **out of stock** with no confirmed resupply date.
- Cimetidine 400mg tablets are **out of stock** until **March 2021 (Ennogen)**; **Medreich** are **out of stock** with no confirmed resupply date.
- Cimetidine 800mg tablets are **back in stock** with **Ennogen**; **Medreich** are **out of stock** with no confirmed resupply date.
- Nizatidine 150mg and 300mg tablets are **out of stock** until the **end of 2020 (Mylan)**; **Medreich** are **out of stock** with no confirmed resupply date.

2. It is recommended that, where possible, patients are not switched to an alternative H2-receptor antagonist in the first instance as this may exacerbate a shortage of these products. There are currently sufficient supplies of oral omeprazole to manage an increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

3. For patients without sufficient supplies of cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine for the duration of the out of stock period, prescribers should consider the following advice:

- Review patients to establish if ongoing treatment is still required.
- Review patients to establish if treatment could be stepped down to an antacid or alginate.
- If ongoing treatment is still required, then consider switching to an alternative oral treatment: refer to the BNF/BNFC and/or local formularies/prescribing advice regarding the use of alternatives.

Enquiries

4. 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)