



14 May 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Salazopyrin[®] (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories

Priority: Level 3*

Valid until: 5 June 2020

Issue

1. Salazopyrin[®] (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories will be out of stock until week commencing 1 June 2020.
2. Limited supplies of Salofalk[®] (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories will be available week commencing 18 May 2020.
3. Pentasa[®] (mesalazine) 1g suppositories remain available during this period.

Advice and Actions

4. All healthcare professionals in primary, secondary or specialist healthcare services should work with clinicians including pharmacists to ensure the following actions are undertaken where relevant:
 - defer initiating new patients on Salazopyrin[®] 500mg suppositories until the supply disruption is resolved in early June 2020;
 - if the patient does not have sufficient supplies of Salazopyrin[®] 500mg suppositories to last until the resupply date, clinicians should consider prescribing an alternative 5-ASA containing suppository, as detailed in Table 1 in **Annex A**. Patients should be counselled by the prescriber about use of a different product and, if applicable, about a change in dosing regimen;
 - be aware that use of mesalazine for Crohn's disease affecting the rectum will be an off-label use and the patient should be counselled accordingly.

Additional Information

5. There is no dose equivalence data when switching between Salazopyrin[®] (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories and other 5-ASA formulations. Refer to Table 1 in **Annex A** for licensed doses and to the SmPC for further information.

Enquiries

6. 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).

Table 1: information on the licensed indications and recommended dose for all 5-ASA suppositories.

Drug name, strength, form	Licensed indication	Recommended Adult Dose	Availability
Salazopyrin [®] (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories	Ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease affecting the rectum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusted according to the severity of the disease and the patient's tolerance • Typically, 1 to 2 suppositories twice daily 	Out of stock until w/c 1 June 2020
Pentasa [®] (mesalazine) 1g suppositories	Treatment of ulcerative proctitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute treatment: 1 suppository once daily for 2 to 4 weeks. • Maintenance treatment: 1 suppository once daily. 	In stock
Salofalk [®] (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories	Management of mild and moderate episodes of ulcerative colitis that is limited to the rectum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dosage should be adjusted to suit the progress of the condition • 1 to 2 suppositories, 2 to 3 times daily 	Limited supply available from w/c 18th May 2020
Salofalk [®] (mesalazine) 1g suppositories	Treatment of acute mild to moderate ulcerative colitis that is limited to the rectum (ulcerative proctitis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 suppository once daily 	Out of stock until end of July 2020

Please refer to local formularies and treatment guidelines and/or obtain specialist advice from local gastroenterology teams on consideration of alternative 5-ASA formulations (enemas or oral therapies) if the suppositories listed above are not considered suitable.