



1 June 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Salazopyrin<sup>®</sup> (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories**

**Priority: Level 3\* update to MSAN (2020)40**

**Valid until: w/c 15 June 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Salazopyrin<sup>®</sup> (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories will be out of stock until week commencing 15 June 2020.
2. Limited supplies of Salofalk<sup>®</sup> (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories will be available week commencing 18 May 2020.
3. Pentasa<sup>®</sup> (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<sup>®</sup> 500mg suppositories until the supply disruption is resolved in June 2020;
  - if the patient does not have sufficient supplies of Salazopyrin<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> (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](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net) (secondary care).

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

<b>Drug name, strength, form</b>	<b>Licensed indication</b>	<b>Recommended Adult Dose</b>	<b>Availability</b>
Salazopyrin <sup>®</sup> (sulfasalazine) 500mg suppositories	Ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease affecting the rectum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjusted according to the severity of the disease and the patient's tolerance</li> <li>• Typically, 1 to 2 suppositories twice daily</li> </ul>	Out of stock until w/c 15 June 2020
Pentasa <sup>®</sup> (mesalazine) 1g suppositories	Treatment of ulcerative proctitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute treatment: 1 suppository once daily for 2 to 4 weeks.</li> <li>• Maintenance treatment: 1 suppository once daily.</li> </ul>	In stock
Salofalk <sup>®</sup> (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories	Management of mild and moderate episodes of ulcerative colitis that is limited to the rectum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dosage should be adjusted to suit the progress of the condition</li> <li>• 1 to 2 suppositories, 2 to 3 times daily</li> </ul>	Limited supply available from w/c 18th May 2020
Salofalk <sup>®</sup> (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"> <li>• 1 suppository once daily</li> </ul>	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.