



11 June 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Prednisolone 5mg Suppositories (RPH Pharmaceuticals)**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: End July 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Prednisolone 5mg suppositories are out of stock of until end of July 2020, due to manufacturing issues.
2. Unlicensed supplies of prednisolone 5mg suppositories have been sourced, lead times vary.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. For patients with insufficient supplies, clinicians should consider prescribing unlicensed prednisolone 5mg suppositories and work with local pharmacy teams to ensure that orders can be placed within appropriate time frames, as lead times may vary (see additional information).
4. Where unlicensed imports are not considered appropriate, UKMi guidance regarding alternative treatments should be considered (see additional information).

#### **Additional Information**

##### Supply information

5. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed prednisolone 5mg suppositories (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Alium Medical;
  - Clinigen;
  - Mawdsleys.
6. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and/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.

##### Clinical information

7. Where unlicensed supplies are not considered appropriate, UKMi suggest the use of Budenofalk® (budesonide) 2mg/dose rectal foam (see SPC for information on dose; please note that use for anal complications of Crohn's disease would be off-label).
8. If Budenofalk® is not considered appropriate and patients have not trialled a rectal 5-ASA suppository previously, Pentasa® (mesalazine) 1g suppositories and Salofalk® (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories are currently available. Use of either for anal complications of Crohn's

disease would be off-label. For patients who have not responded to 5-ASA treatment, advice should be sought from a specialist on possible management options.

### **Enquiries**

9. 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).