

18 June 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Levodopa/carbidopa/entacapone tablets - various brands and strengths

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: Early August 2020

Issue

1. Teva and Accord the suppliers of Stanek[®] and Sastravi[®] tablets respectively, are out of stock of the following presentations.

Presentations Affected	Stanek [®]	Sastravi [®]
	Anticipated Resupply Dates	
75mg/18.75mg/200mg tablets		
Pack size 30	Early August 2020	Available
100mg/25mg/200mg tablets		
Pack size 100	Mid-July 2020	Late-June 2020
Pack size 30	Mid-July 2020	Late-June 2020
125mg/31.25mg/200mg tablets		
Pack size 30	Available	Late-June 2020
150mg/37.5mg/200mg tablets		
Pack size 100	Early August 2020	Available
Pack size 30	Available	Late-June 2020
175mg/43.75mg/200mg tablets		
Pack size 100	Out of stock from late June until end of July-2020	Late-June 2020
Pack size 30	End of July	Late-June 2020
200mg/50mg/200mg tablets		
Pack size 100	Early August 2020	Out of stock from late June until end of July-2020

2. All other Stanek[®] and Sastravi[®] presentations remain available during this time.
3. Supplies of Stalevo[®] tablets, which are considered equivalent, continue to remain available (see additional information below).

Advice and Actions

4. For patients with insufficient supplies of Stanek[®] or Sastravi[®] until the anticipated resupply date, clinicians should consider prescribing levodopa/carbidopa/entacapone tablets generically so that pharmacies can supply an equivalent preparation of an available product.

Additional Information

5. MHRA and UKMi in consultation with a specialist pharmacist have advised that in practice, medicines for Parkinson's disease are not mandated to be prescribed by brand, as all three brands are considered to be bioequivalent, although some very brittle patients may wish to stay on a particular brand. In the event of a shortage, the maintenance of supply of the drug is more important than the brand; and switching of brands is preferable to changing a patient's regimen. When switching brands, patients should be reassured that they are receiving the same treatment and monitored for side effects/change in disease control. As these combination products are often part of complex regimens and can be confusing to patients in terms of availability of various strengths, patients should be counselled, by the prescriber or pharmacist, on any changes to avoid medication errors, especially for those on more than one strength of Stanek[®] or Sastravi[®] tablets.
6. Note that the information in this circular relating to Stanek[®] updates the information found in MSAN (2020)21.

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).