



25 June 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Imipramine 25mg tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: Early August 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Imipramine 25mg tablets are out of stock until early August.
2. Imipramine 10mg tablets remain available.
3. Unlicensed imports of imipramine 25mg tablets have been sourced: lead times vary.
4. Imipramine 25mg/5ml oral suspension remains available but cannot support any increase in demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. Where the patient has insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date and following discussion with the patient/carer, clinicians should consider reviewing need for ongoing treatment.
6. Following the above, clinicians should then consider:
  - **rounding up** the dose of imipramine to the nearest equivalent dose that could be made up of 10mg tablets without exceeding the maximum licensed dose (rounding down may cause withdrawal reactions/relapse). See [SPC](#) for further information;
  - prescribing an alternate day dose regime following confirmation of patient understanding, to match the average existing dose e.g. 20mg/30mg on alternate days in place of a 25mg daily dose, in cases where the dose is felt to be critical;
  - prescribing an unlicensed import of imipramine 25mg tablets where patients require the exact therapeutic total daily dose and work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see additional information); and
  - obtaining specialist advice on treatment options if none of the above are considered appropriate.

#### **Additional Information**

7. The following specialist importers have currently confirmed they can source unlicensed imipramine 25mg tablets with variable lead times (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Alium Medical;
  - Mawdsleys;
  - Target Healthcare.
8. 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

9. See the [SPCs](#) for further information.

### **Enquiries**

10. 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).