



29 June 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **H2-antagonists (cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine)**

**Priority: Level 2\* update to MSAN (2020)47**

**Valid until: various, see below**

#### **Issue**

1. Following supply issues affecting Ranitidine (MSAN (2019)22 and subsequent updates), suppliers of cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine have reported an increase in demand, which has contributed to short term shortages.
  - Famotidine 20mg tablets: **Teva** expect to be back in stock in **August 2020**; **Tillomed** have **limited stock with resupply date to be confirmed**;
  - Famotidine 40mg tablets: **Teva** expect to be back in stock **w/c 22 June 2020**; **Tillomed** have **limited stock with resupply date to be confirmed**;
  - Cimetidine 200mg tablets: **Ennogen** are in stock; **Medreich** are out of stock with **resupply date to be confirmed**;
  - Cimetidine 400mg tablets: **Ennogen** are **out of stock** until **June 2021**; **Medreich** are **out of stock** with **resupply date to be confirmed**;
  - Cimetidine 800mg tablets: **Ennogen** are in stock; **Medreich** are out of stock with **resupply date to be confirmed**;
  - Nizatidine 150mg tablets: **Mylan** are out of stock until the **end of July 2020**; **Medreich** are out of stock with **resupply date to be confirmed**;
  - Nizatidine 300mg tablets: **Mylan** are out of stock until the **end of June 2020**; **Medreich** are out of stock with **resupply date to be confirmed**.
2. It is recommended that, where possible, patients are not switched to an alternative H2-receptor antagonist in the first instance as this may exacerbate a shortage of these products. There are currently sufficient supplies of oral omeprazole to manage an increase in demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. For patients without sufficient supplies of cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine for the duration of the out of stock period, prescribers should consider the following advice:
  - Review patients to establish if ongoing treatment is still required.
  - Review patients to establish if treatment could be stepped down to an antacid or alginate.
  - If ongoing treatment is still required, then consider switching to an alternative oral treatment: refer to the BNF/BNFC and/or local formularies/prescribing advice regarding the use of alternatives.

#### **Enquiries**

4. 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)