



13 July 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) CFC-free 5mg inhaler (Sanofi)**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: mid-November 2020**

#### **Issue**

1. Sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) CFC-free 5mg inhalers are out of stock until mid-November 2020.
2. Unlicensed supplies have been sourced in sufficient quantities to cover the out of stock period.
3. Nedocromil sodium 2mg inhalers (Tilade<sup>®</sup> - an alternative chromone inhaler) were discontinued in May 2019.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. Where the patient has **insufficient supplies** to last until the resupply date, clinicians should consider:
  - reviewing patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy. [BTS guidelines](#) consider inhaled corticosteroids to be the first choice preventer drug, whilst sodium cromoglicate is an alternative but less effective preventer therapy; [GINA guidelines](#) also highlight that chromones are not recommended for routine use.
  - prescribing unlicensed imports of sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) inhaler, if treatment with sodium cromoglicate is considered necessary (see additional information).

#### **Additional Information**

5. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) CFC-free 5mg inhalers with variable lead times (please note, there may be other companies that can source supplies):
  - Clinigen
  - Mawdsleys
  - Target Healthcare
6. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Board 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 (RPS)

## **Enquiries**

7. 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).