



11 August 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Pethidine 50mg tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: TBC**

#### **Issue**

1. Martindale are out of stock of pethidine 50mg tablets.
2. Supplies are currently available from Teva although they will be out of stock by the end of August. There are no alternative suppliers.
3. Neither company are currently able to advise a resupply date as the issue is due to a problem at the active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturing site.
4. Unlicensed supplies of pethidine 50mg tablets have been sourced.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. Patients with insufficient supplies of pethidine 50mg tablets should be:
  - reviewed by a clinician to assess ongoing need and advice obtained from their local pain team and/or substance misuse team on choice of alternative agent or advice on weaning;
  - prescribed unlicensed pethidine 50mg tablets if ongoing treatment is required. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders for unlicensed product are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see additional information below).

#### **Additional Information**

6. The following specialist importer companies have sourced unlicensed pethidine 50mg tablets from abroad (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Alium Medical
  - Mawdsleys Unlicensed
7. 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**

8. 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).