



26 August 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Nabumetone 500mg Tablets

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: Early November 2020

Issue

1. Tillomed Laboratories Ltd., sole suppliers of nabumetone 500mg tablets, are out of stock until early November 2020.
2. Unlicensed supplies of nabumetone 500mg tablets can be sourced, lead times vary.
3. UKMi have provided clinical advice on prescribing in the absence of nabumetone.

Advice and Actions

4. Where patients have insufficient supplies of nabumetone tablets to last until the re-supply date, clinicians/prescribers should:
 - review patients to determine if continued analgesia is still required and if so, whether treatment with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) remains appropriate.
 - If NSAID treatment is considered appropriate, either;
 - consider prescribing unlicensed imports if nabumetone is indicated.
Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see additional information below); or
 - consider an alternative NSAID treatment option (see additional information below)
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, refer to BNF for consideration of other analgesics.

Additional Information

5. Clinical Information

- If an NSAID is considered necessary, switch to a non-selective or COX-2 selective NSAID, with/without gastroprotection, depending on individual risk of gastrointestinal adverse events.
- Refer to [NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary](#) guidance for advice on prescribing NSAIDs
- Refer to [NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary](#) guidance for advice on analgesia for mild-to-moderate pain.

6. Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed *nabumetone 500mg tablets* (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Mawdsleys Unlicensed
- Target Healthcare
- 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

Enquiries

7. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).