



9 October 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Desmopressin (Octim[®]) 150 micrograms per actuation nasal spray (Ferring Pharmaceuticals)

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: mid-2021

Issue

1. Desmopressin (Octim[®]) 150 micrograms per actuation nasal spray is out of stock until mid-2021.
2. Ferring Pharmaceuticals have [recalled](#) Octim[®] nasal sprays, as a precautionary measure due to a lower volume of solution being observed and out of specification results of desmopressin acetate and benzalkonium chloride.
3. Desmopressin (Octim[®]) 15 micrograms per ml injection remains available and can be prescribed as an alternative.

Advice and Actions

4. Where patients have insufficient supplies of Octim[®] nasal spray, clinicians should refer them to their haemophilia treatment centre for consideration of switching to:
 - desmopressin (Octim[®]) 15 micrograms per ml injection; and
 - if desmopressin (Octim[®]) 15 micrograms per ml injection is deemed suitable, the patients haemophilia centre should counsel the patient on its use, including how to self-administer a subcutaneous injections and the need to store in a refrigerator between 2°C- 8°C (see additional information below).

Additional Information

Clinical information:

5. Octim[®] nasal spray is licensed to:
 - increase Factor VIIIc and Factor VIII:Ag (vWf) in patients with mild to moderate haemophilia or von Willebrand's disease (VWD) undergoing surgery, following trauma or with other bleeding episodes such as menorrhagia and epistaxis
 - test for fibrinolytic response.
6. According to [BCSH guidelines on selection and use of therapeutic products to treat haemophilia and other hereditary bleeding disorders](#), desmopressin remains the drug of choice in the prophylaxis and treatment of haemorrhagic episodes in patients with mild haemophilia A or VWD (predominantly type 1) and symptomatic carriers of haemophilia A. In addition to the

*<https://nhsns.org/media/3874/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.docx>

intranasal route, it may also be administered as a subcutaneous injection (off-label use for menorrhagia and epistaxis).

7. Octim® (desmopressin 15mcg/ml) injection remains available and able to support an increased demand. Patients who are switched to the injection will need to be seen by the haemophilia team, counselled on its use, including need to store in a refrigerator between 2°C- 8°C, and trained on how to self-administer a subcutaneous injection. Specialists will need to ensure patients are not intolerant to any of the excipients.
8. Further advice should be sought from the haemophilia team.
9. Please refer to [BCSH guideline on the diagnosis and management of von Willebrand disease](#) and [SPCs](#) for further information on dosing and administration:

Enquiries

10. 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).