



9 October 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Oral Contraceptive tablets (various brands)

Priority: Level 2* - update to MSAN (2020)81

Valid until: Various – see table

Issue

1. The following oral contraceptive preparations are currently out of stock:

Product affected	Ingredients	Resupply Date	Management Advice
Brevinor®	Ethinylestradiol/norethisterone 35microgram/500 microgram tablets	Early January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market. Other ethinylestradiol and norethisterone OCP products remain available. - Clinicians are advised to refer to CKS guidance and BNF for further advice.
Eloine®	Ethinylestradiol/ drospirenone 20 microgram/ 3mg tablet	October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlicensed imports of Eloine® tablets have been sourced; lead times vary. - There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market. Other ethinylestradiol and drospirenone OCP products remain available. - Clinicians are advised to refer to the BNF for advice.
Norimin®	Ethinylestradiol/norethisterone 35microgram/1mg tablets	Early January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market. Other ethinylestradiol and norethisterone OCP products remain available. - Clinicians are advised to refer to CKS guidance and BNF for further advice.
Synphase®	Ethinylestradiol/norethisterone/ 35microgram/500microgram and 35microgram/1mg tablets	Early January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlicensed imports of Synphase® tablets have been sourced; lead times vary. - Other brands of phasic oral contraceptive tablets of differing composition remain available (see table below).
Yiznell®	Ethinylestradiol/drospirenone 30microgram/3mg tablets	November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equivalent alternatives with same composition remain available from suppliers of following brands: Dretine®, Yacella®, Yasmin®, Ellaite and Lucette®
Zoely®	Estradiol/nomegestrol 1.5mg/2.5mg tablets	Mid October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market. - Clinicians are advised to refer to CKS guidance and BNF for advice.

Advice and Actions

2. For patients with insufficient supplies of their oral contraceptive to last until the resupply date, clinicians should consider prescribing an alternative OCP following the advice contained in this MSAN (see summary table and additional information).
3. Where unlicensed imports are deemed appropriate, prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times vary (see additional information),
4. Clinicians (both prescribing and dispensing) should counsel patients regarding the different brand and dosing regimen prescribed, where appropriate.
5. Specifically for patients with insufficient supplies of Synphase® tablets to last until the resupply date, prescribers should consider prescribing:
 - an alternative phasic oral contraceptive (see additional information below):
 - an alternative non-phasic oral contraceptive; or
 - an unlicensed import of Synphase® tablets (see additional information below).

Additional Information

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports:

6. The following specialist importers have currently confirmed they can source unlicensed Synphase® tablets with variable lead times (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

Synphase® tablets	Eloine® Tables
Clinigen	Alium
Mawdsleys Unlicensed	Target
Target Healthcare	Durbin
	Mawdsleys

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).

Clinical Information

8. **Guidance providing evidence-based recommendations and good practice points for health professionals on the use of combined hormonal contraceptives is available from the [Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare \(FSRH\)](#).**
9. For further information on the constituents of phasic oral contraceptives, see the table below:

Oral Contraceptive	Supplier	Number of tablets	Ethinylestradiol content (micrograms)	Levonorgestrel content (micrograms)	Norethisterone content (micrograms)
Synphase®	Pfizer	7	35		500
		9	35		1000
		5	35		500
Logynon®/Logynon ED®*	Bayer	6	30	50	
		5	40	75	
		10	30	125	
TriRegol®	Consilient	6	30	50	
		5	40	75	
		10	30	125	

*Logynon ED® also contains 7 placebo tablets to allow continuous daily dosing

10. Find the SPCs for the phasic oral contraceptives below:

- [Logynon® tablets](#);
- [Logynon ED® tablets](#);
- [TriRegol® tablets](#).

Enquiries

11. 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).