



2 March 2021

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: until May 2021**

#### **Issue**

1. Acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules are out of stock until May 2021.
2. Acetazolamide immediate release 250mg tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
3. Limited supplies of unlicensed imports of acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules have been sourced.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. For patients with insufficient supplies, clinicians should consider prescribing acetazolamide 250mg tablets.
5. See the UKMi memo (link below) for further advice about management and switching from acetazolamide modified-release capsules to immediate release formulations.
6. If acetazolamide 250mg tablets are not appropriate, consider prescribing one of the following unlicensed medicines:
  - acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules
  - acetazolamide oral suspension (various strengths available)

#### **Additional Information**

7. Please see the following UKMi memo for further advice:  
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/acetazolamide-250mg-prolonged-release-capsules-advanz-teva/>
8. The following specialist importer(s) have currently confirmed availability of unlicensed acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Target Healthcare Ltd
9. 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:
  - [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
  - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC)

## **Enquiries**

10. 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.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).