NHS Circular: MSAN (2021) 12

Chief Medical Officer Directorate Pharmacy and Medicines Division



23 March 2021

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Enalapril 5mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: end of April 2021

Issue

- 1. Enalapril 5mg tablets are out of stock until the end of April 2021.
- 2. Enalapril 10mg tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
- 3. Enalapril 2.5mg tablets remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
- 4. Unlicensed enalapril oral solution/suspension are available and unlicensed imports of enalapril 5mg tablets can be sourced.

Advice and Actions

- 5. For patients with insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, clinicians are requested to discuss all treatment options with patients, taking into account individual needs to recommend the most suitable option.
- 6. Options include prescribing:
 - enalapril 10mg tablets (which may need to be broken in half), see UKMi memo (link below) for further advice;
 - enalapril 5mg/5ml oral solution/suspension (unlicensed special); or
 - imports of unlicensed enalapril 5mg tablets. 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).

Additional Information

- 7. Please see the following links for further advice and information:
 - UKMi Memo Shortage of enalapril 5mg tablets
 - Enalapril SPCs

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports and unlicensed specials

- 8. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed enalapril 5mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical
 - Mawdsley's Unlicensed
 - Target Healthcare
- 9. Unlicensed enalapril 5mg/5ml oral suspension/solution is available from most Specials Manufacturers.

^{*}https://nhsnss.org/media/3874/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.docx

- 10. 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:
 - <u>The supply of unlicensed medicinal products</u>, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
 - <u>Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials</u>, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)
 - Prescribing unlicensed medicines, General Medical Council (GMC)

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).