



31 March 2021

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Oral Contraceptive tablets (various brands)

Priority: Level 2* - update to MSAN (2020)98

Valid until: Various dates - see table

Issue

1. Suppliers of the following oral contraceptive tablets have advised of changes to the availability of the preparations below.
2. All further updates on the availability of oral contraceptive products (OCP) will be provided in DHSC's monthly supply issues update which is uploaded to the Specialist Pharmacist Services (SPS) website (see additional information below for details on how to access). Please be aware that while updates will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Product affected	Ingredients	Estimated resupply date	Management Advice
Dianette®	Ethinylestradiol 35 microgram / Cyproterone 2 mg tablets	w/c 26 April 2021	➤ Equivalent generic alternatives with the same composition remain available from suppliers of the following manufacturers; Strandhaven Ltd, Stragen UK Ltd. and Kent Pharma.
Femodette®	Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets	w/c 03 May 2021	➤ Equivalent alternatives with the same composition remain available from suppliers of the following brands: Akizza®, Millinette® and Sunya®.
Norinyl-1®	Mestranol 50microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets	w/c 22 March 2021	➤ There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market (see supporting information). ➤ Clinicians are advised to refer to CKS guidance and BNF for advice. ➤ Unlicensed imports have been sourced; lead times vary.

Norgeston®	Levonorgestrel 30mg tablets	w/c 19 April 2021- w/c 31 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market (see supporting information). ➤ Clinicians are advised to refer to CKS guidance and BNF for advice. ➤ Unlicensed imports have been sourced; lead times vary.
Qlaira®	Ethinylestradiol Valerate / Dienogest (various strengths)	w/c 25 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ See SmPC- Qlaira for full list of active ingredients. ➤ There are no exact equivalent preparations available in the UK market (see supporting information). ➤ Clinicians are advised to refer to CKS guidance and BNF for advice.
Yiznell®	Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets	w/c 29 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equivalent alternatives with same composition remain available from suppliers of the following brands: Dretine®, Yacella®, Ellanite® and Lucette®.

Advice and Actions

3. 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 additional information)
 - consider prescribing generically to enable any manufacturers product to be dispensed.
4. 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).
5. Clinicians (both prescribing and dispensing) should counsel patients regarding the different brand and dosing regimen prescribed, where appropriate

Additional Information

Accessing the Monthly Supply Issues Update

6. To access the document, you can register with the [Specialist Pharmacy Service](#) (SPS) website if you have an NHS email address. Once signed into SPS, the full document and all Medicine Supply Notifications can be found [here](#).

Clinical information:

7. Guidance providing evidence-based recommendations and good practice points for healthcare professionals on the use of combined hormonal contraceptives is available from the [Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare \(FSRH\)](#).

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports:

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

Levonorgestrel 30mg tablets <i>(Norgeston equivalent)</i>	Mestranol 50microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets <i>(Norinyl-1 equivalent)</i>	Estradiol Valerate / Dienogest tablets (various strengths) <i>(Qlaira equivalent)</i>
Smartway Pharma	Target Healthcare	Smartway Pharma
	Smartway Pharma	

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.

- [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).

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).