



22 April 2021

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Pioglitazone 15mg/metformin 850mg (Competact®) tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: early May 2021

Issue

1. Pioglitazone 15mg/metformin 850mg tablets (Competact®) is out of stock until early May 2021.
2. Generic pioglitazone 15mg/metformin 850mg tablets are out of stock with no resupply date.
3. Pioglitazone 15mg tablets and metformin 850mg tablets remain available and can support the uplift in demand.
4. Unlicensed supplies of pioglitazone 15mg/metformin 850mg tablets can be sourced.

Advice and Actions

5. For patients with insufficient supplies of Competact® 15mg/850mg tablets, where unlicensed imports cannot be sourced by community pharmacists, doctors should consider prescribing pioglitazone 15mg tablets and metformin 850mg tablets as separate constituents.
6. Community pharmacists may also supply pioglitazone 15mg tablets and metformin 850mg tablets as separate constituents. Patient reassurance and counselling may be needed due to differences in packaging and formulation
7. If the above options are not deemed appropriate to meet the individual patient clinical needs, prescribers should consider reviewing patients and switching to alternative glucose lowering therapies
8. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams if unlicensed imports are prescribed to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Additional Information below).

Additional Information

9. See links below for further information:
 - [SPC for Competact® 15mg/850mg tablet](#)
 - [SPCs for pioglitazone 15mg tablet](#)
 - [SPCs for metformin 850mg tablet](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

10. The following specialist importer has confirmed they can source unlicensed pioglitazone 15mg/metformin 850mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical

11. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine should be based on the lack of licensed available alternatives that could meet the individual patient clinical needs. This must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Board or local governance procedures. Good practice would determine a record to be made for use of unlicensed medicine, citing the rationale for its use. 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 (RPS),
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC)

Enquiries

12. 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).