



3 August 2021

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Gentisone HC<sup>®</sup> (Gentamicin 0.3% w/v and Hydrocortisone acetate 1% w/v) Ear Drops**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: w/c 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

#### **Issue**

1. Gentisone HC<sup>®</sup> ear drops will be out of stock until w/c 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
2. Alternative combination topical ear products containing an aminoglycoside with a steroid remain available.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Clinicians should:

- not initiate new patients on Gentisone HC<sup>®</sup> ear drops;
- consider prescribing an alternative combination topical ear product containing an aminoglycoside with a steroid, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the ingredients (see Additional Information); and
- if the above option is not considered appropriate or for patients with complex disease, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

#### **Additional Information**

##### Alternative products and availability

<b>Brand</b>	<b>Components</b>	<b>Availability</b>
Betnesol-N <sup>®</sup> eye/ear/nose drops	Betamethasone sodium phosphate 0.1%, Neomycin sulphate 0.5%	In stock – can support a full uplift
Otomize <sup>®</sup> ear spray	Dexamethasone 0.1%, neomycin sulphate 0.5%, glacial acetic acid 2%	In stock – can support a full uplift
Otosporin <sup>®</sup> ear drops	Hydrocortisone 1%, neomycin sulphate 3400 units/mL, polymyxin B sulphate 10,000 units/mL	In stock – can support a partial uplift
Sofradex <sup>®</sup> ear/eye drops	Dexamethasone 0.05%, framycetin sulphate 0.5%, gramicidin 0.005%	In stock – can support a full uplift

\*<https://nhs.uk/medicines/medicines-supply-alert-notice-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.docx>

## Clinical Information

4. Further advice on the management of otitis externa can be found here:

- [NICE CKS - Otitis externa](#)
- [BNF Treatment Summary – Ear](#)

5. Please refer to the SPCs for further information on all preparations:

- [SPC Gentisone HC<sup>®</sup>](#)
- [SPC Betnesol-N<sup>®</sup>](#)
- [SPC Otomize<sup>®</sup>](#)
- [SPC Otosporin<sup>®</sup>](#)
- [SPC Sofradex<sup>®</sup>](#)

## **Enquiries**

6. 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).