



3 August 2021

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Nexium<sup>®</sup> (esomeprazole) 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: w/c 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

#### **Issue**

1. Nexium<sup>®</sup> (esomeprazole) 10mg gastro-resistant **granules sachets** are out of stock until w/c 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
2. Alternative liquid or dispersible tablet formulations of a proton-pump inhibitor (PPI) remain available.
3. Unlicensed imports of esomeprazole 10mg gastro-resistant granule sachets can be sourced.

#### **Advice and Actions**

##### Primary care

4. Prescribers should work with local Pharmacies to understand stockholdings and signpost patients accordingly. Where patients are unable to access supplies until the re-supply date, the following actions should be considered:
  - prescribe alternative PPI preparations (see additional information below); or
  - for patients whose treatment was initiated in secondary care, refer to prescribing clinician for review and/or supply; or
  - consider prescribing unlicensed imports. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see additional information section).

##### Secondary care

5. Health Board pharmacy procurement teams working with clinical teams should:
  - review local stock holding of Nexium<sup>®</sup> 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets; and
  - work to share stock locally, to ensure continuity of care; or
  - where stock is unavailable consider switching to alternative PPI preparations (see additional information section); or
  - consider prescribing unlicensed imports. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see additional information section).

## Additional Information

### Clinical Information

Table 1: Alternative dispersible or liquid PPI preparations

Medicine	Licensed age of patient group	Licensed for administration via enteral feeding tube	Additional information
<a href="#">Lansoprazole (15mg &amp; 30mg) orodispersible tablets</a>	Adults	Yes	N/A
<a href="#">Omeprazole (10mg, 20mg and 40mg) dispersible gastroresistant tablets</a>	Adults and Children over 1 year old	No	N/A
<a href="#">Omeprazole (2mg/ml or 4mg/ml) oral suspension sugar free (licensed)</a>	Adults and Children	Yes	If the more complex reconstitution and administration instructions and/or presence of additional excipients, is not considered appropriate, an unlicensed oral solution of omeprazole is available.
Omeprazole (2mg/ml or 4mg/ml) oral solution (unlicensed)	N/A	Unlicensed product; has been used in practice down enteral feeding tube,	N/A

Please refer to the SPCs (linked) for further information on all preparations

### Unlicensed Supply Information

- 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)
- The following specialist importers have currently confirmed they can source unlicensed supplies of Esomeprazole 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - UL Global Pharma

**Enquiries**

8. 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).