



8 November 2021

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Acebutolol (Sectral®) 100mg capsules

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: discontinued, stock expected to be exhausted by the end of November 2021

Issue

1. Neon Healthcare are discontinuing acebutolol (Sectral®) 100mg capsules with stock expected to be exhausted by the end of November 2021.
2. Acebutolol 200mg capsules and 400mg tablets remain available and can support an increase in demand.
3. Unlicensed imports of acebutolol 100mg capsules can be sourced. Lead times may vary.

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians should:
 - review all affected patients to determine if acebutolol remains the most suitable treatment;
 - if ongoing beta-blocker treatment is required, consider
 - **first line:** switching to alternative beta blocker (see supporting information below);
 - **second line:** if an alternative beta blocker is not suitable, consider adjusting the acebutolol dose regimen to allow use of strengths still available (200mg and 400mg);
 - monitor patients for loss of symptom control or side-effects following changes to medications

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Acebutolol is a beta blocker with cardioselective partial agonist activity, also known as intrinsic sympathomimetic activity (ISA), which is claimed to be associated with less bradycardia and coldness of the extremities. It is licensed for the management of hypertension, angina pectoris and the control of tachyarrhythmias; the daily dose ranges from 200mg up to 1200mg.
6. When switching to an alternative beta blocker, consider whether ISA is a requirement; other agents with this property include celiprolol, pindolol and oxprenolol. Specialist advice questions the clinical relevance of ISA in practice and suggests considering use of a low dose standard beta-blocker if avoidance of bradycardia is required or, use of a vasodilating beta-blocker such as carvedilol or nebivolol, if avoidance of coldness of extremities is required. If continuation of acebutolol is preferred, adjust the regimen to allow use of other strengths still available by titrating the total daily dose up or down by 100mg. Use of a twice a daily dose regimen may be

preferred over three times a day due to better adherence. Patients should be monitored for side effects and loss of symptom control.

7. Please see the following links for further information:

- [Sectral® 100mg capsules SPC](#)
- [Sectral® 200mg capsules SPC](#)
- [Sectral® 400mg tablets SPC](#)
- [Acebutolol 400mg tablets SPC](#)
- [BNF summary of beta blockers](#)
- [Angina: Beta-blockers – NICE CKS](#)
- [Hypertension: Beta-blockers – NICE CKS](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

8. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed acebutolol 100mg capsules (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Mawdsley's Unlicensed
- Target Healthcare

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:

- [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)

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).