

7. Please refer to NICE guidance on safe prescribing and withdrawal management

- [Medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: safe prescribing and withdrawal management for adults](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed medicines

8. The following specials companies have confirmed they can manufacture paroxetine 10mg/5ml oral suspension (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Eaststone Specials
- Nova Laboratories
- Rokshaw Limited
- 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)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

10. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues.

11. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool it is required to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Planning tab and then click on Medicines Supply option.

12. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool in order to stay up to date with regards to medicines supply disruptions.

13. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

14. 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).