



9 June 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg (Eloine[®]) tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late August 2023

Issue

1. Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg (Eloine[®]) tablets are out of stock from late-June 2023 until late-August 2023.
2. Alternative combined oral contraceptives (COC) remain available and will be able to support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

3. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, prescribers should:
 - review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
 - consider prescribing an alternative COC, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the dosing regimen required (see Additional information below).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

4. Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg (Eloine[®]) tablets are the only drospirenone containing COC that contains ethinylestradiol at this dose. Other brands contain 30 micrograms ethinylestradiol per tablet (see table 1). These could be considered as suitable alternatives for many women. However, for women considered to be at increased risk of arterial thrombotic disease (such as increasing age, higher BMI) then it might be considered more appropriate to select a COC which contains 20microgram of ethinylestradiol with a different progestogen (see table 1). If prescribing a preparation with a different progesterone, the suitability of this should be considered as there is differing risk of venous thromboembolism with different progesterones.
5. See links for further information:
 - [Combined hormonal contraceptives - BNF](#)

- [Combined oral contraceptive | Management | Contraception - combined hormonal methods | CKS | NICE](#)
- [FSRH Clinical Guideline: Combined Hormonal Contraception](#)

Table 1 - Available alternative COC

Ethinylestradiol 30microgram with drospirenone 3mg	Ethinylestradiol 20microgram with desogestrel 150microgram	Ethinylestradiol 20microgram with gestodene 75microgram
Dretine® tablets SmPC Lucette® tablets SmPC Yacella® tablets SmPC Yasmin® tablets SmPC Yiznell® tablets SmPC	Bimizza® tablets SmPC Gedarel® tablets SmPC Mercilon® tablets SmPC	Femodette® tablets SmPC Millinette® tablets SmPC Sunya® tablets SmPC

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

6. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues.
7. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need 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 Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
8. 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 concerning medicines supply disruptions.
9. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

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).