



9 June 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Glucagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen®)

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: mid- July 2023

Issue

1. There are two glucagon preparations available – GlucaGen® (1mg powder for injection kit) and Ogluo® (0.5mg and 1mg pre-filled auto-injector pens)
2. GlucaGen® 1mg powder for injection kit will be unavailable from mid-June 2023 until to mid-July (a period of 4 weeks).
3. Ogluo® 0.5mg and 1mg pre-filled auto-injector pens can be used for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes; however, is not suitable for treatment of beta blocker or other drug overdoses.
4. Ogluo® is available to order from the wholesaler, Alliance.

Advice and Actions

5. In Primary Care, where patients have insufficient supplies of GlucaGen® to last until the re-supply date, healthcare professionals should:
 - prescribe or administer Ogluo®(glucagon) pre-filled auto-injector pen for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes;
 - counsel patients how to administer the pre-filled auto-injector pen and;
 - limit prescriptions to two devices per patient until normal supply resumes.
6. Pharmacy staff in Secondary care should:
 - centralise stocks of GlucaGen® back into pharmacy from Accident and Emergency departments and;
 - order a sufficient quantity of Ogluo® stock from Alliance wholesalers to cover usage during this gap in period. This additional stock will be short dated (31st July 2023) and should only be used in hypoglycaemia. Usage of Ogluo® stock needs to be prioritised over the use of GlucaGen® i.e., moved into A&E and ward areas where glucagon is required, to conserve longer dated GlucaGen® for use after this date.
7. Clinicians considering the use of glucagon in secondary care settings should:
 - Call the NPIS (0344 892 0111) to discuss treatment options if treating severe hypotension in a poisoned patient e.g. toxicity related to beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers or tricyclic antidepressants, please; further detail is also available on TOXBASE.

- Use Ogluo[®] (glucagon) pre-filled auto-injector pen to treat severe hypoglycaemic episodes when GlucaGen[®] is not available.

8. Ambulance clinicians should:

- Conserve GlucaGen[®] for use when IV glucose 10% has failed or there is no IV access.
- Only use a GlucaGen[®] kit ONCE in patients who are unconscious and unresponsive to IV glucose 10%.
- Follow the JRCALC guidelines for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

Hypoglycaemia

9. Glucagon is indicated for treatment of severe hypoglycaemic reactions, which may occur in the management of insulin treated children and adults with diabetes mellitus. It is available in two formulations:

- GlucaGen[®] (powder for reconstitution) - licensed to be given subcutaneously and intramuscularly. It is also licensed to be used diagnostically for testing gastric motility.
- Ogluo[®] (pre-filled auto-injector pen containing solution) - only licensed to be given subcutaneously.

Beta-blocker and other Drug Overdoses

10. Intravenous [glucagon](#) (unlicensed) is a treatment option for severe cardiovascular instability in beta-blocker overdose, and some other drug overdoses including calcium channel blockers and tricyclic antidepressants. GlucaGen[®] vials are normally reconstituted and given as an initial bolus which may be followed by an IV infusion; Ogluo[®] is not licensed nor suitable for the management of beta-blocker or other drug overdoses. This is a pre-filled device, and the solution cannot be removed to be added to an IV infusion, the same was GlucaGen[®] normally is.

11. Whilst there are supply problems with glucagon, clinicians treating severe hypotension in a poisoned patient e.g. with toxicity related to beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers or tricyclic antidepressants, should call the NPIS (0344 892 0111) to discuss treatment options; further detail is also available on TOXBASE.

Patient Counselling

12. Ogluo[®] instruction videos for patients can be found on the manufacturer's website: [Ogluo | Tetris Pharma](#)

13. Please refer to the links below:

- [Glucagon | Drugs | BNF](#)
- [SmPC: GlucaGen Hypokit 1 mg](#)
- [SmPC: Ogluo 1mg](#)
- [SmPC: Ogluo 0.5mg](#)
- [Poisoning, emergency treatment | Treatment summaries | BNF](#)

- [RCEM/NPIS Guideline on Antidote Availability for Emergency Departments \(December 2022\)](#)
- [Ogluo administration guide and video](#)
- [TOXBASE \(log in required\)](#)
- [Joint Royal College of Ambulance Liaison Committee JRCALC Guidelines \(restricted access\)](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

14. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source some supplies of GlucaGen®:
- Mawdsleys
 - Target Healthcare
15. Other importers may also be able to source stock within Europe
16. 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

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. 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).