



9 June 2023

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Micronised Progesterone (Utrogestan®) 100mg capsules**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: end of 2023**

#### **Issue**

1. There are intermittent supplies of micronised progesterone (Utrogestan®) 100mg capsules until late 2023, resulting in brief periods every month when this product will be unavailable.
2. To ensure that all patients have access to treatment, a UK- wide Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued on 19/05/2023 to limit the quantity of Utrogestan® capsules supplied to patients to 2 months.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Prescribers should consider prescribing quantities of 2 months or less for new and existing patients.
4. Where patients present with a prescription for more than 2 months' supply of micronised progesterone (Utrogestan®) 100mg capsules:
  - pharmacists should consider utilising SSP 056 to limit supply to a maximum of 2 months, where appropriate, providing stock is available, and advising patients on the current supply situation;
  - inform the patient's GP that supply of a smaller quantity has been made to ensure the patient's next prescription is provided sooner than expected; and
  - where supplies are unavailable, refer patients back to prescribers to consider alternative hormone replacement therapies or the use of unlicensed progesterone 100mg capsules.

#### **Additional Information**

5. Please refer to the links below for further information:

[Serious Shortage Protocol for micronised progesterone \(Utrogestan®\) 100mg capsules](#)

[SmPC Utrogestan 100mg Capsules](#)

[British Menopause Society: HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives](#)

[British Menopause Society: HRT - Practical Prescribing](#)

## Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

6. The following specialist importer has confirmed they can source unlicensed progesterone 100mg (Utrogest) capsules (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Target
7. 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**

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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**

12. 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).