



9 June 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Norditropin® Flexpro® and NordiFlex® (somatropin) solution for injection pre-filled pens (5mg/1.5ml, 10mg/1.5ml and 15mg/1.5ml)

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: September 2023

Issue

- 1. Norditropin® Flexpro® 5mg will be out of stock from early August until at least September 2023.**
- 2. Norditropin® Flexpro® 10mg pens will be out of stock from mid-July until at least September 2023.**
- 3. Norditropin® Flexpro® 15mg pens will be out of stock from mid-June until at least September 2023.**
- 4. Norditropin® NordiFlex® 5mg, 10mg and 15mg pens will be out of stock for the remainder of 2023.**
- 5. Omnitrope® (somatropin) 5mg/1.5ml, 10mg/1.5ml and 15mg/1.5ml solution for injection cartridges remain available and will be able to support a full increase in demand during this time**
- 6. Sciensus and Alcura have the capacity to offer virtual device training for all switched patients.**
- 7. Other alternative somatropin products remain available but may require a change in formulation and/or dosing regimen.**

Advice and Actions

- 8. Secondary care pharmacy teams should work with clinical specialists and their local pharmacy homecare lead to:**
 - ensure that new patients are not initiated on Norditropin® Flexpro® or NordiFlex® pens for the remainder of 2023;
 - review all patients, including those under shared care arrangements, prescribed Norditropin® Flexpro® or NordiFlex® pens and where clinically appropriate, issue a new prescription for the appropriate strength of Omnitrope® cartridges (to be used with SurePal™ injection device);
 - ensure all new Omnitrope® prescriptions are sent to their current Norditropin® homecare service provider or outpatient dispensary. Please note that Sciensus and Alcura can provide the Omnitrope® SurePal™ service and new registration forms are not required for existing patients;
 - communicate with home care providers if nurse led injection training is required on use of Omnitrope® in the SurePal™ injection device;
 - review prescription duration and frequency and where clinically appropriate issue 6-month prescriptions, with 4-weekly delivery cycles; and

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

- ensure that contractual arrangements are discussed with the homecare provider.

9. Homecare providers should:

- ensure that once a new prescription for Omnitrope[®] is received, the patient's existing Norditropin[®] Flexpro[®] or NordiFlex[®] prescription is immediately cancelled;
- call patients to inform them of the change to their prescription while arranging delivery and offer nursing support on use of new device; and
- work with the prescriber and the Board homecare lead to ensure nurse led training or, if available, administration support is offered where requested.

10. Outpatient dispensaries should ensure that:

- once a new prescription for Omnitrope[®] is received, the patient's existing Norditropin[®] Flexpro[®] or NordiFlex[®] prescription is cancelled;
- patients receive a patient education pack and are counselled about the change in prescription at the point of first dispensing; and
- patients are directed back to their specialist team if they flag a need for additional nurse-led training or ongoing nursing support.

11. GP surgeries who prescribe Norditropin[®] Flexpro[®] and NordiFlex[®] pens should:

- proactively identify all patients on these products and refer them to their specialist prescribing centre for review and switching to Omnitrope[®].

Additional Information

Clinical Information

12. Both Norditropin[®] and Omnitrope[®] contain somatropin, therefore no change in clinical monitoring requirements is anticipated following a switch. Omnitrope[®] cartridges are administered with the SurePal[™] injection device. There are three types of SurePal[™] for use with the three strength of cartridges (5 mg, 10 mg and 15 mg). Clinicians and providers should ensure that patients and their carers are counselled on use of the new device.

13. If Omnitrope[®] is not an appropriate alternative, other products containing somatropin remain available however switching to these alternatives may involve switching formulation and dosing regimen so clinicians and providers should ensure the patients and their carers are counselled appropriately on the new formulation and dose.

14. See links for further information

- [SmPC Norditropin[®] Flexpro[®]](#)
- [SmPC Norditropin[®] Nordiflex[®]](#)
- [SmPC Omnitrope[®]](#)
- [BNF Somatropin](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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

19. 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).