



7 August 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: end August 2023

Issue

1. Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg tablets will be out of stock during August 2023.
2. Tegretol® 200mg tablets and Tegretol® 100mg/5ml liquid remain available and will be able to support increased demand.
3. Generic carbamazepine 100mg tablets remain available but are unable to support an increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

4. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, healthcare professionals should:
 - consider prescribing half of a Tegretol® 200mg tablet (unlicensed manipulation), ensuring patients are able to split the tablet, and understand they are receiving the same dose (see Additional Information);
 - consider prescribing Tegretol® 100mg/5ml liquid for patients unable to split a Tegretol® 200mg tablet, ensuring the patient is counselled on the appropriate volume to take; and
 - seek advice from specialists on alternative management options, if the above are not considered appropriate.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Tegretol® (carbamazepine) tablets are licensed for the management of generalised tonic-clonic and partial seizures in epilepsy, the prophylaxis of manic-depressive psychosis in patients unresponsive to lithium therapy, and for trigeminal neuralgia.
6. As carbamazepine is a category 1 anti-epileptic drug, there are clear indications that clinically relevant differences between different manufacturers' products might occur, even when the pharmaceutical forms are the same and bioequivalence has been shown, thus patients should be maintained on a specific manufacturer's product.
7. Tegretol® 200mg tablets are scored but they are not licensed to be halved to deliver a part dose, and there may be slight variation in bioavailability from halving a 200mg tablet or switching to

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

the liquid, but these are pragmatic options that have to be considered whilst Tegretol 100mg tablets are out of stock. Patients should be advised to report any loss of disease or seizure control, and adverse effects, after the switch.

8. Patients prescribed Tegretol® 200mg tablets, or their carer, should be counselled on dosing, ensuring they are able to halve the tablet, and to use a tablet cutter if there are manual dexterity issues. They should also be advised to only halve one tablet at a time for immediate use, and store the remaining half for the next dose, in the tablet cutter if using one, or in an empty tablet bottle. They should be advised to always store their medicine out of reach and out of sight of children.
9. Please refer to the links below for further information:
 - [SmPC Tegretol 100mg tablets](#)
 - [SmPC Tegretol 200mg tablets](#)
 - [SmPC Tegretol 100mg/5ml liquid](#)
 - [BNF Carbamazepine](#)
 - [BNF Epilepsy](#)
 - [NICE CKS: Epilepsy](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

10. 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.
11. 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.
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 concerning 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 always 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).