



29 August 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Estradiol (Estradot®) 25micrograms/24 hours, 37.5micrograms/24 hours and 100micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: late September 2023

Issue

1. Estradiol (Estradot®) 25micrograms/24hours, 37.5micrograms/24hours, 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches will be out of stock until late September 2023.
2. Alternative brands of estradiol patches (Evorel® and Estraderm MX®) are available and can support a full uplift in demand.
3. A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Estradiol (Estradot®) 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches was issued on 25/08/2023. The details of this SSP can be accessed at: [Serious shortage protocol: Estradot® \(Estradiol Hemihydrate\) 100 microgram patch \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/serious-shortage-protocol-estradiol-hemihydrate-100-microgram-patch)

Advice and Actions

For patients with insufficient supplies of:

4. Estradiol (Estradot®) 25micrograms/24hours transdermal patches:
 - clinicians should consider prescribing Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25micrograms/24hours patches, ensuring the patient is counselled on the change in brand at the point of supply.
5. Estradiol (Estradot®) 37.5micrograms/24hours transdermal patches:
 - clinicians should consider prescribing Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25micrograms/24hours patches, advising patients to cut a patch in half (off-label use) and apply one and a half patches to provide a 37.5micrograms/24hours dose. The remaining half can be put back into the packet for the next dose. Ensure the patient is able to carry out this manipulation (see Supporting Information);
 - clearly annotate the prescription to emphasise the dose i.e. one and a half patches of the Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25micrograms/24hours are to be applied and ensure the patient understands dosing and administration; and
 - patients should be counselled on the change in brand and how to deliver 37.5microgram dose at the point of supply. They should be advised to always store their medicine out of reach and out of sight of children.

6. If the above options are not appropriate or patients have previously had intolerances to Evorel® or Estraderm MX® patches, refer the patient to their specialist where applicable, establish if ongoing treatment is required and switch to an alternative available hormone replacement therapy (HRT).
7. Estradiol (Estradot®) 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches:
 - community pharmacists may supply an equivalent strength of Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches in accordance with the SSP for eligible patients (see Supporting information below);
 - pharmacists must ensure that the patient's prescriber and/or GP practice is notified when supplying a patient in accordance with this SSP; and
 - patients should be counselled regarding the switch in brand at the point of supply.
 - If the above options are not appropriate or patients have previously had intolerances to Evorel® or Estraderm MX® patches, refer the patient to the prescriber/specialist to establish if ongoing treatment is required and considering prescribing an alternative available hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

8. Please see the links for further information:
 - [SmPC Estradot® patches](#)
 - [SmPC Evorel® patches](#)
 - [SmPC Estraderm MX® patches](#)
 - [British Menopause Society – HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives](#)
 - [British Society for Paediatric endocrinology and Diabetes patient information leaflet](#) - guidance on cutting Evorel® and Estraderm MX® patches
 - [SSP Estradiol \(Estradot®\) 100microgram/24hours transdermal patches](#)
 - [CKS: Menopause- Hormone replacement therapy](#)

Further updates on HRT availability

9. Updates on HRT stock availability, provided by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), are regularly posted on the Medicine Supply Tool and the designated '[Prescribing available HRT products](#)' page, both hosted on the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website.

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).