



29 August 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Minims[®] Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose Minims[®] Proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose

Priority: Level 3*
Valid until: early October 2023

Issue

1. Minims[®] Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose and Minims[®] Proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose are in limited supply until early October 2023.
2. Where stock is unavailable, unlicensed supplies of proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative: benzalkonium chloride) may be sourced, lead times vary.
3. Minims[®] Tetracaine Hydrochloride 0.5% w/v and 1% w/v eye drop solution remain available but can only cover normal demand.

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians/prescribers should:
 - reserve stock of Minims[®] oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% and Minims proxymetacaine 0.5% for urgent procedures, patients who require preservative-free formulations, and for children;
 - where there are insufficient stocks available consider prescribing unlicensed proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative, benzalkonium chloride) ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients. Clinicians should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Additional Information below).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Minims[®] Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% and Minims[®] Proxymetacaine 0.5% are both used as ocular anaesthetics.
6. Imports of proxymetacaine hydrochloride 0.5% eye drop solution have been sourced. This presentation contains the preservative benzalkonium chloride, which may cause hypersensitivity reactions.

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

7. Target Healthcare have confirmed they can source unlicensed proxymetacaine hydrochloride 0.5% eye drops solution (10 x 10ml) (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies).
8. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant regulatory, professional and Board guidance and 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)

Links

- [SmPC - Minims Oxybuprocaine Hydrochloride 0.4% w/v](#)
- [SmPC - Minims Proxymetacaine Hydrochloride 0.5% w/v, Eye drops solution](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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

13. 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).