



29 August 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Minims[®] Povidone Iodine 5% w/v Eye Drops, Solution

Priority: Level 3*

Valid until: early October 2023

Issue

1. Minims[®] Povidone Iodine 5% w/v eye drops, solution are in limited supply until early October 2023.
2. A number of Specials manufacturers are able to produce unlicensed povidone iodine 5% eye drops.
3. Unlicensed imports of povidone iodine 5% ophthalmic solution may be sourced, lead times vary.
4. Videne[®] (povidone iodine) antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution is available and can be diluted to 5%.

Advice and Actions

5. Clinicians/prescribers should:
 - reserve stock of Minims[®] Povidone Iodine 5% for urgent procedures;
 - where there are insufficient stocks available consider purchasing povidone iodine 5% eye drops or imports of povidone iodine 5% ophthalmic solution from a Specials Manufacturer. To notes a check should be made to ensure 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);
 - if the above options are unavailable or unsuitable, consider diluting Videne[®] (povidone iodine) antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution to produce a 5% solution for application to the eye, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (see Additional Information below); and
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Product licence

6. Minims® Povidone Iodine 5% w/v eye drops solution is licensed for cutaneous peri-ocular and conjunctival antiseptics prior to ocular surgery and/or intravitreal injection to support post-procedural infection control.

Diluting Videne® (povidone iodine) antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution

7. This product is licensed for once-only use in the disinfection of intact external skin or as a mucosal antiseptic, for example prior to surgery, biopsies, injections, punctures, blood-taking and bladder catheterisations. The patient information leaflet (PIL) includes instructions for medical or healthcare professionals for preparing a 5% solution for eye irrigation stating that the solution should be diluted 1:2. **For use as an eye irrigation, this means diluting 1 part povidone iodine 10% solution with 1 part diluent* to achieve a 5% solution.** A phosphate buffered solution* or balanced salts Solution* are the recommended diluents. A diluted solution **must** be freshly prepared at the point of use and used immediately.

Specials

8. Specials of povidone iodine 5% eye drops are available to purchase in 5ml, 10ml and 50ml quantities. These may be used as a multidose product to patients on a single surgical list during this period of shortage. It is essential that that fresh droppers are used for each patient to mitigate against the risk of any cross contamination.

Guidance on ordering and prescribing Specials

9. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source Specials or imports of povidone iodine 5% (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Mandeville Medicines
 - Orifarm
 - Tayside
10. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance from regulators 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)

Links

[SmPC – Povidone iodine 5% w/v eye drops, solution](#)

[SmPC – Videne® antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution](#)

[PIL - Videne® antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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).