



19 September 2023

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Estradiol (FemSeven®) 75micrograms/24hours and 100micrograms/24hours**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

#### **Issue**

1. Estradiol (FemSeven®) 75micrograms/24hours and 100micrograms/24hours transdermal are out of stock until w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.
2. Alternative brands of estradiol patches, Evorel® and Estraderm®, of the same strengths remain available and can support a full uplift in demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. For patients with insufficient supplies of estradiol (FemSeven®) 75micrograms/24hours or 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches prescribers should:
  - consider prescribing Evorel® or Estraderm® transdermal patches of the same strength ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, is counselled on the appropriate dose and the change in brand at the point of supply
  - where the above is not appropriate, establish if ongoing treatment is required and switch to an alternative hormone replacement therapy (HRT), taking into consideration wider supply issues (see Additional information below).

#### **Additional Information**

4. 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](#).
5. Please refer to the links below for further information:
  - [Evorel® transdermal patches](#)
  - [Estraderm® transdermal patches](#)
  - [FemSeven® transdermal patches](#)

## **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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**

10. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).