



6 October 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: until w/c 1st January 2024

Issue

1. Hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches are in limited supply until w/c 1st January 2024.
2. Alternative formulations of hyoscine hydrobromide remain available and will be able to support an increase in demand.
3. Glycopyrronium tablets and liquid remain available and will be able to support an increase in demand.
4. Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of hyoscine hydrobromide patches may be sourced, lead times vary (see Additional information).

Advice and Actions

5. Healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care should not initiate any new patients on hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches.
6. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
 - review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
 - prioritise any remaining stock of Scopoderm® patches for patients who have no oral access;
 - consider switching patients who have oral access to an alternative formulation of hyoscine hydrobromide; or if not appropriate, a glycopyrronium bromide preparation (see Additional Information);
 - consider prescribing unlicensed hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches if alternative options are not suitable, working with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames, as lead times may vary (see Additional Information below), and
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

7. Hyoscine hydrobromide patches are licensed for the prevention of travel sickness symptoms e.g., nausea, vomiting and vertigo and used off-label for the management of hypersalivation and drying up respiratory secretions.

Alternative Treatment Options

Other hyoscine hydrobromide formulations for the management of hypersalivation/ respiratory secretions

8. Hyoscine hydrobromide (Kwells®) 150microgram and 300microgram tablets are used off label in this setting, with dosing titrated up based on response and tolerability. They are taken orally, sucked or chewed. In patients with swallowing difficulty, they can also be administered by sublingual or buccal route (off label route of administration).

Glycopyrronium bromide products

9. These are licensed for the symptomatic treatment of severe sialorrhoea (chronic pathological drooling/hypersalivation) in children and adolescents aged 3 years and older with chronic neurological disorders. Use in adults is off-label. They are an option if there is oral access/ patient can swallow. Preparations include:
 - Glycopyrronium bromide 1mg and 2mg tablets
 - Glycopyrronium bromide 1mg/5ml oral solution
 - Glycopyrronium bromide (Sialanar) 2mg/5ml oral solution
10. As there are two separate glycopyrronium liquid products with different strengths, prescribing should clearly indicate the strength and dose to reduce the risk of selection and dosing error.

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

11. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed hyoscine hydrobromide 1.5mg patches (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium
 - Mawdsley
 - Q MED
12. 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)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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

17. 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).