



16 October 2023

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Pancrease® HL gastro-resistant capsules**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: discontinuation, stock to be exhausted by mid-November 2023**

#### **Issue**

1. Pancrease® HL gastro-resistant capsules are being discontinued with stock expected to be exhausted by mid-November 2023.
2. Alternative high strength pancreatin preparations remain available and will be able to support increased demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Clinicians/prescribers should:
  - review patients currently prescribed Pancrease HL capsules and prescribe an alternative high strength pancreatin preparation, titrating dose according to symptoms, and ensuring patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (see Additional Information below).

#### **Additional Information**

##### **Clinical Information**

4. Pancrease HL gastro-resistant capsules is a high strength pancreatin preparation licensed for exocrine pancreatic enzyme deficiency as in cystic fibrosis, chronic pancreatitis, post pancreatectomy, post gastrointestinal bypass surgery (e.g. Billroth II gastroenterostomy), and ductal obstruction from neoplasm (e.g. of the pancreas or common bile duct).
5. Alternative high strength preparations include Creon 25,000 and Nutrizyme 22. The preparations differ slightly in the levels of enzymes (see Table 1). Prescribers may need to re-titrate the dose according to symptoms of maldigestion and malabsorption, as well as ensure there is no intolerance to excipients. Of note, Nutrizym 22 contains castor oil which may cause stomach upset and diarrhoea.

Table 1: High strength pancreatin preparations enzyme content

Product	Protease units	Amylase units	Lipase units
Pancrease HL capsule	1250	22,500	25,000
Creon 25,000 capsule	1000	18,000	25,000
Nutrizyme 22 capsule	1100	19,800	22,000

\*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

## Links

- [SmPC - Pancrease HL Capsules](#)
- [SmPC – Creon 25,000 capsule](#)
- [SmPC – Nutrizyme 22 capsule](#)
- [BNF - Pancreatin](#)
- [BNF- Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency](#)
- [Cystic Fibrosis Trust - Pancreatic enzyme supplement and cystic fibrosis](#)

## **DHSC medicines supply tool (hosted on 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. 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.
7. 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. 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**

8. 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).