



3 April 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: early May 2024

Issue

1. Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes are currently out of stock until early May 2024.
2. Midazolam oromucosal solution pre-filled syringes 2.5mg/0.5mL, 5mg/1mL, 7.5mg/1.5mL and 10mg/2mL remain available and will be able to support increased demand.
3. Diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes remain available and will be able to support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

4. Where supply of diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes is not available, clinicians should:
 - review patients and consider prescribing midazolam oromucosal solution as appropriate, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and the parent/carer is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required, and how to administer the dose (see Additional Information);
 - where midazolam oromucosal solution is not appropriate, consider prescribing diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes to make up the dose required for the patient, ensuring that the parent or carer is aware of how to do this and reminded of the need to repeat this process for any subsequent doses; and
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists for individualised review and consideration of alternative management options.
5. Ambulance service staff should:
 - use diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes to make up the dose required for the patient.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

6. Diazepam rectal solution tubes are licensed in epileptic and febrile convulsions, to relieve muscle spasm caused by tetanus, as a sedative in minor surgical and dental procedures, and for initial use in acute severe anxiety and agitation.
7. Midazolam oromucosal solution is licensed in the treatment of prolonged, acute, convulsive seizures in infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents (from 3 months to < 18 years). Midazolam oromucosal solution is not licensed for use in children under 3 months or in adults over 18 years. It is used off-label for status epilepticus in these age groups.

Please refer to the links below for further information:

- [SmPC Diazepam 5mg rectal solution](#)
- [SmPC Midazolam oromucosal solution](#)
- [BNF Diazepam](#)
- [BNF Midazolam](#)
- [BNFC: Repeated or cluster seizures, prolonged seizures, and status epilepticus](#)
- [Administration of Rectal Diazepam to Neonates and Infants to Treat Seizures Prior to Hospital Admission](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

8. 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.
9. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool 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

10. 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).