



25 April 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Accord)

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: TBC

Issue

1. Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Accord) are out of stock with a resupply date yet to be confirmed.
2. Phenobarbital 15mg tablets from other manufacturers remain available and can support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

3. Clinicians should:

- not initiate new patients on phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Accord) until the supply issue resolves;
- consider prescribing phenobarbital 15mg tablets from another manufacturer; and
- if the above option is not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

4. Phenobarbital is a [category 1 anti-epileptic drug](#) so ideally patients should be maintained on a specific manufacturer's product. Patients should be monitored after a switch in manufacturer's product for loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects.

Links to further information

- [SmPC phenobarbital 15mg tablets \(Accord\)](#)
- [BNF phenobarbital](#)
- [BNFC phenobarbital](#)
- [MHRA anti-epileptic advice on switching products](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

5. 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.
6. 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

7. 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).