



25 April 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: mid-June 2024

Issue

1. Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg tablets are out of stock until end of April 2024.
2. Tegretol® 200mg tablets remain available and can support a partial increase in demand.
3. Generic carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets (Crescent) are out of stock until mid-June 2024.
4. Generic carbamazepine 100mg tablets (Medreich) remain available and can support a partial increase in demand.
5. Generic carbamazepine 200mg tablets (Medreich) are out of stock until w/c 22 April 2024. After this date, they can support a partial increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

6. Where patients have insufficient supplies of Tegretol® 100mg tablets to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
 - consider prescribing half a Tegretol® 200mg tablet (off-label), providing a tablet cutter if needed (see Additional information); and
 - reserve supplies of generic carbamazepine 100mg tablets for patients who cannot halve Tegretol® 200mg tablets, as a full uplift in demand cannot be supported.
7. Where patients have insufficient supplies of generic carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
 - prescribe generic carbamazepine 100mg or 200mg tablets from another manufacturer reserving available supplies for patients who usually receive generic carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets, **and** for those patients on Tegretol® 100mg tablets who cannot halve Tegretol® 200mg tablets.
8. Seek advice from specialists on alternative management options, if the above are not considered appropriate.
9. Patients receiving carbamazepine tablets from a different manufacturer should be advised that this switch is necessary to maintain treatment with the same drug at the same dose, and to seek advice if they experience loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects after switching.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

10. Carbamazepine tablets are licensed for the management of generalised tonic-clonic and partial seizures in epilepsy, the prophylaxis of manic-depressive psychosis in patients unresponsive to lithium therapy, and for trigeminal neuralgia.
11. Carbamazepine 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.

Halving Tegretol 200 mg tablet

12. Although the tablets are scored, they are not licensed to be halved to deliver a part dose, and there may be slight variation in bioavailability from halving a 200mg tablet, but this pragmatic option using the same brand, has to be considered whilst Tegretol® 100mg tablets are out of stock.
13. Patients prescribed Tegretol® 200mg tablets, or their carer, should be counselled on dosing, ensuring they are able to halve the tablet, and advised to use a tablet cutter if there are manual dexterity issues. They should also be advised to only halve one tablet at a time for immediate use, store the remaining half for the next dose in the tablet cutter if using one, or in an empty tablet bottle and keep the remaining half tablet out of the reach of children.

Supply Overview**

Product	Supplier	Supply status**
Tegretol® 100mg tablets	Novartis	Out of stock until end April 2024.
Tegretol® 200mg tablets	Novartis	In stock. Can support increased demand for the shortage of Tegretol® 100mg tablets. Please note, this cannot support the shortages of generic carbamazepine tablets.
Carbamazepine 100mg tablets	Crescent	Out of stock until mid-June 2024.
Carbamazepine 200mg tablets	Crescent	Out of stock until mid-June 2024.
Carbamazepine 100mg tablets	Medreich	In stock. Can support increased demand for the shortage of carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets (Crescent) and for those patients on Tegretol® 100mg tablets who cannot halve Tegretol® 200mg tablets.
Carbamazepine 200mg tablets	Medreich	Currently out of stock until w/c 22 April 2024. Following this date, can support increased demand for the shortage of carbamazepine 200mg tablets (Crescent).

**Please note that the supply status for the products listed above may change. Any changes will be reflected on the [Medicine Supply Tool](#) via the Specialist Pharmacy Service website SPS.

Links to further information

- [SmPC Tegretol® 100mg tablets](#)
- [SmPC Tegretol® 200mg tablets](#)
- [BNF Carbamazepine](#)
- [BNF Epilepsy](#)
- [NICE CKS: Epilepsy](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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).