



30 May 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Somatropin (NutropinAq®) 10mg/2ml solution for injection cartridges Somatropin (Humatrope®) 6mg, 12mg and 24mg powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridges**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: Products have been discontinued**

#### **Issue**

1. Somatropin (NutropinAq®) 10mg/2ml solution for injection cartridges have been discontinued with stock exhausted late March 2024.
2. Somatropin (Humatrope®) 6mg, 12mg and 24mg powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridges have been discontinued with stock exhausted late April 2024.
3. Other brands of somatropin remain available and can support increased demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. Secondary care pharmacy teams should work with clinical specialists and their local pharmacy homecare lead to:
  - ensure patients are not initiated on NutropinAq® or Humatrope® products;
  - review patients currently prescribed NutropinAq® and Humatrope® products, including those in shared care arrangements, and issue a new prescription for an alternative somatropin product (see Additional information);
  - ensure all new prescriptions are sent to patient's current homecare service provider or dispensary;
  - communicate with home care providers if nurse led injection training is required on the new prescription.
5. Homecare providers should:
  - ensure that once a new prescription is received, the patient's existing NutropinAq® or Humatrope® prescription is immediately cancelled;
  - call patients to inform them of the change to their prescription while arranging delivery and offer nursing support and counselling on the change in device; and
  - work with the prescriber and the Health Board homecare lead to ensure nurse led device training or, if available, drug administration support, is offered where requested.
6. GP practices who prescribe NutropinAq® and Humatrope® should:

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

- proactively identify all patients on these treatments and refer them to their specialist prescribing centre for review and switching to alternative somatropin products.

7. Dispensing pharmacies should ensure that:

- once a new prescription is received, the patient's existing NutropinAq® or Humatrope® prescription is cancelled;
- patients receive a patient education pack and are counselled about the change in prescription at the point of first dispensing; and
- patients are directed back to their specialist team if they require additional nurse-led training or ongoing nursing support.

## Additional Information

### Clinical Information

8. No additional monitoring is anticipated following a change to an alternative somatropin product but the change in device requires patients and/or their carers to be counselled on how to use the new device and ensure the correct dose is administered.

### Table of somatropin products

Brand	Presentation	Strengths	Licensed indications	Excipient with known effects
NutropinAq®	Solution for injection cartridge	10mg/2ml	Children: Growth disturbance related to insufficient growth hormone secretion, Turner syndrome, chronic renal insufficiency Adults: Replacement therapy in adults with pronounced growth hormone deficiency.	Contains phenol and citric acid
Humatrope®	Powder and solvent for solution for injection cartridge	6mg, 12mg, 24mg	Children: Growth disturbance related to insufficient growth hormone secretion, Turner syndrome, chronic renal insufficiency, SHOX deficiency, growth disturbance in short children born small for gestational age Adults: Replacement therapy in adults with pronounced growth hormone deficiency.	Contains mannitol

*Omnitrope®	Solution for injection cartridge- Pen/ SurePal	5mg/1.5ml, 10mg/1.5ml, 15mg/1.5ml	Children: Growth disturbance related to insufficient growth hormone secretion, Turner syndrome, chronic renal insufficiency, growth disturbance in short children born small for gestational age and Prader-Willi syndrome Adults: Replacement therapy in adults with pronounced growth hormone deficiency	Contains phenol
*Genotropin®	Powder and solvent for solution for injection – pre-filled disposable device, cartridge	MiniQuick: 400microgram, 600microgram, 800microgram, 1mg, 1.2mg, 1.4mg, 1.6mg, 1.8mg, 2mg Cartridge: 5.3mg, 12mg, GoQuick pen: 5.3mg, 12mg,	As for Omnitrope®	Contains mannitol
*Saizen®	Solution for injection cartridge	6mg/1.03ml, 12mg/1.5ml, 20mg/2.5ml,	As for Omnitrope®	Contains citric acid and phenol
*Zomacton®	Powder and solvent for solution for injection	4mg	Children: Growth disturbance related to insufficient growth hormone secretion and Turner syndrome	Solvent contains benzyl alcohol, powder contains mannitol
Norditropin Flexpro®	Solution for injection pre-filled pens	5mg/1.5ml, 10mg/1.5ml, 15mg/1.5ml	Children: Growth disturbance related to insufficient growth hormone secretion, Turner syndrome, chronic renal insufficiency, growth disturbance in short children born small for gestational age and Noonan syndrome.  Adults: Childhood onset and adult onset growth hormone deficiency	Contains phenol and mannitol

9. \*Omnitrope®, Genotropin®, Saizen®, Zomacton® and Norditropin Flexpro® (10mg/1.5ml and 15mg/1.5ml) are available

10. Note: Genotropin® MiniQuick 200microgram and Norditropin Flexpro® 5mg/1.5ml remain available but are unable to support an uplift.

## **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

11. 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.
12. 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**

13. 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).