



11 June 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: early September 2024

Issue

1. Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free is out of stock until early September 2024.
2. Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension remains available and can support increased demand.
3. Unlicensed imports of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free can be sourced, lead times vary.

Advice and Actions

4. All prescribers should:
 - consider prescribing co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension, the excipients differ from those of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension, therefore before switching ensure that the person is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required (see Additional information);
 - consider prescribing unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Supporting information); and
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Co-trimoxazole **40mg/200mg/5ml** oral suspension sugar free is licensed for use in children aged 12 years and under (infants [>6 weeks to <2 years old] and children [>2 to <12 years old]).
6. Co-trimoxazole **80mg/400mg/5ml** oral suspension is licensed for use in children aged >12 to <18 years and adults.
7. Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension contains different excipients to co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free and may not be as palatable for some

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

children. Children with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucrose-isomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine. However, in other children, it may be considered for off-label use, once it is confirmed that the child is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and the patient/carer is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required.

8. **NOTE: 5ml of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg suspension = 2.5ml of co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg suspension.**

Links to further information:

- [SmPC Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension](#)
- [SmPC Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension](#)
- [BNF Co-trimoxazole](#)

9. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium
- Chemys
- Smartway
- Clinigen
- Genetech
- Mawdsleys
- Target

10. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board or local governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes.

11. Please see the links below for further information:

- [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC).

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

12. 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.
13. 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

14. 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).