

21 June 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Triamcinolone acetonide suspension for injection vials (Kenalog® 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl® 50mg/5ml)

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: week ending 28th June 2024

Issue

1. Triamcinolone acetonide suspension for injection vials (Kenalog® 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl® 50mg/5ml) are out of stock until week ending 28th June 2024.
2. The following parenteral steroid preparations remain available and can support increased demand: dexamethasone 3.3mg/1ml and 3.8mg/1ml; hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg; and certain methylprednisolone products (Depo Medrone 40mg/1ml and Solu Medrone 500mg and 1g).
3. Where these are not suitable, unlicensed imports may be sourced, lead times vary.
4. Note the following preparations remain available but cannot support an increase in demand: hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml, Depo Medrone 120mg/3ml and 80mg/2ml, Solu Medrone 125mg, and methylprednisolone sodium succinate (Kent Pharma) 500mg and 1g.
5. Triamcinolone hexacetonide 20mg/ml suspension for injection is out of stock with no confirmed resupply date (further information can be found on the Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) [medicine supply tool](#)).
6. Solu Medrone 40mg powder and solvent for solution for injection is out of stock until July 2024.

Advice and Actions

7. Prescribers in primary and secondary care should:
 - not initiate patients on Kenalog® 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl® 50mg/5ml until the shortage has resolved;
 - consider prescribing an alternative injectable corticosteroid which is able to support the market during this time with reference to local and national treatment guidelines, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and is advised of the change in steroid preparation (see supporting information below);
 - 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 additional information below); and
 - seek advice from specialists on management options, where the above options are not considered appropriate.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

8. Adcortyl® is licensed for intra-articular use in relieving joint pain, swelling and stiffness and for intradermal use for treating certain skin conditions.
9. Kenalog® is licensed for intra-articular use and also for administration by intramuscular injection for the treatment of conditions where sustained corticosteroid treatment is required. In practice, the use of Kenalog® for treating hayfever is discouraged.

Available corticosteroid injection products that can support an increase in demand:

Corticosteroid preparation	Licensed indication	Route of administration
Dexamethasone 3.3mg/1ml solution for injection	Endocrine disorders, non-endocrine corticosteroid-responsive conditions, palliative care, local administration for soft-tissue disorders, intra-articular disorders and certain skin disorders	Intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intra-articular, intralesional
Dexamethasone 3.8mg/1ml solution for injection		
Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection	Any condition in which rapid and intense corticosteroid effect is required	Intravenous, intramuscular
Depo Medrone 40mg/1ml suspension for injection (methylprednisolone)	Rheumatic disorders, collagen diseases/arteritis, dermatological diseases, allergic states, GI diseases, respiratory diseases, TB meningitis, soft-tissue disorders	intramuscular, intra-articular, periarticular, intrabursal, intralesional or into the tendon sheath
Solu Medrone 500mg and 1g powder and solvent for solution for injection vials (methylprednisolone)	Any condition in which rapid and intense corticosteroid effect is required	Intravenous, intramuscular

Links to further information

- [SmPC for triamcinolone acetonide \(Kenalog\) intraarticular/ intramuscular injection 40mg/ml](#)
- [SmPC for triamcinolone acetonide \(Adcortyl\) intraarticular/ intradermal injection 10mg/ml](#)
- [SmPC for dexamethasone 3.3mg/ml solution for injection or infusion](#)
- [SmPC for dexamethasone 3.8mg/ml solution for injection](#)
- [SmPC for hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection or infusion](#)
- [SmPC for methylprednisolone injections](#)
- [BNF triamcinolone acetonide](#)
- [BNF corticosteroids inflammatory disorders](#)
- [NICE CKS rheumatoid arthritis](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

10. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed triamcinolone 10mg/ml and 40mg/ml solution for injection (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
- Alium Medical
11. 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.
12. 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

13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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).