



24 July 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Quetiapine 150mg, 200mg, 300mg tablets - UPDATE

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late August 2024

Issue

1. There are limited supplies of quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg tablets until late August 2024.
2. **Subject to short-term localised supply issues**, quetiapine 25mg, 50mg and 100mg tablets currently remain available and can support a partial increase in demand.
3. Quetiapine XL prolonged release tablets (50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg, 400mg and 600mg) remain available and can support a partial increase in demand.
4. Quetiapine 20mg/ml oral suspension remains available and can support a partial increase in demand.
5. Any updates to the supply of quetiapine tablets (any strengths) will be communicated via the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) Medicines Supply Tool.
6. **Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg tablets were issued on 16/07/2024. The SSPs are listed in the links to further information section.**

Advice and Actions

7. Prescribers should not initiate new patients on standard release quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg tablets until the supply issues resolve.
8. Where people have insufficient supply of quetiapine 150mg, 200mg, 300mg tablets to last until the resupply date, prescribers should consider prescribing where available:
 - quetiapine 25mg, 50mg or 100mg tablets, using the largest strength tablet(s) available to provide the required dose; or
 - quetiapine XL prolonged-release tablets, adjusting the dose frequency to once daily, counselling people on the change to formulation and dosing regimen, and to take the dose without food (see Additional information); or
 - quetiapine 20mg/ml oral solution, only where tablets are not appropriate ensuring there is no intolerance to the excipients; and
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.

Actions for pharmacists

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

9. **Where a prescription for quetiapine 150mg, 200mg or 300mg tablets is presented and cannot be fulfilled community pharmacists and dispensing doctors should:**
- **supply an alternative quantity and/or quetiapine preparation(s) where available and according to the products specified in SSP062 - SSP070;**
 - **ensure the cautions and exclusion criteria are taken into account when considering using a SSP;**
 - **ensure patients/parents/carers are counselled regarding any change in quantity and/or preparation(s) supplied including the appropriate dose regime of the substitute product(s); and**
 - **if the patient is deemed ineligible or does not consent to receive an alternative quantity and/or product(s) via the SSP, they should be promptly referred back to the prescriber.**

Additional Information

Clinical Information

10. Quetiapine is licensed for the treatment of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, moderate to severe manic episodes in bipolar disorder, major depressive episodes in bipolar disorder, and for the prevention of recurrence of manic or depressed episodes in people with bipolar disorder, who previously responded to quetiapine treatment.
11. Although food has a minimal effect on quetiapine absorption in the immediate release (IR) formulations, consumption of a high-fat meal increases bioavailability of quetiapine in the XL formulation.
12. The IR tablets and oral suspension are administered twice a day with or without food across the indications, except in the treatment of major depressive episodes in bipolar disorder where the dose is administered once daily at bedtime.
13. The XL prolonged release tablets are administered once daily without food, at least one hour before a meal.
14. When switching people from IR tablets to XL prolonged release tablets, the total daily dose of quetiapine is taken once daily; individual dosage adjustments may be necessary.

Links to further information

- [SmPC quetiapine](#)
- [BNF quetiapine](#)
- [BNFC quetiapine](#)
- [SSP062 - Quetiapine 150mg tablets – Substitution](#)
- [SSP063 - Quetiapine 150mg tablets - Restriction](#)
- [SSP064 - Quetiapine 150mg tablets - Substitution and Restriction](#)
- [SSP065 - Quetiapine 200mg tablets - Substitution](#)
- [SSP066 - Quetiapine 200mg tablets - Restriction](#)
- [SSP067 - Quetiapine 200mg tablets - Substitution and Restriction](#)
- [SSP068 - Quetiapine 300mg tablets - Substitution](#)
- [SSP069 - Quetiapine 300mg tablets - Restriction](#)
- [SSP070 - Quetiapine 300mg tablets - Substitution and Restriction](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

15. 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.
16. 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

17. 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).