



9 August 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Ramipril 2.5mg tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: November 2024**

#### **Issue**

1. Ramipril 2.5mg tablets are anticipated to be out of stock from mid-August until November 2024.
2. Ramipril 2.5mg capsules remain available and can support a full uplift in demand.
3. Other strengths of ramipril tablets remain available but are unable to support an uplift in demand.
4. A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for ramipril 2.5mg tablets has been issued on 06/08/2024 (ref SSP 071). See [PCA\(P\)\(2024\)21](#) for further information.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. Community pharmacists and dispensing doctors should:
  - where a prescription for ramipril 2.5mg tablets is presented and cannot be fulfilled, supply ramipril 2.5mg capsules in accordance with SSP071;
  - ensure the cautions and exclusion criteria are taken into account when considering using an SSP; and
  - ensure patients/parents/carers are counselled regarding the switch in formulation, and acceptability of gelatine in capsules.
6. If the patient is deemed ineligible or does not consent to receive the capsule formulation via the SSP, they should be promptly referred back to the prescriber.
7. Prescribers should:
  - not initiate new patients on ramipril 2.5mg tablets until the supply issue has resolved;
  - where patients have insufficient supplies of ramipril 2.5mg tablets, consider prescribing ramipril 2.5mg capsules, if suitable, checking patient acceptability of gelatine content of capsules; and
  - where the above option is unsuitable, consider prescribing an alternative ACE inhibitor, taking into account the indication, the patient's comorbidities, and local guidance/formularies.

#### **Additional Information**

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

8. Ramipril tablets and capsules are licensed for cardiovascular prevention, and for the treatment of hypertension, renal disease, symptomatic heart failure and secondary prevention after an acute myocardial infarction.
9. Please refer to the links below for further information:
- [SmPC: Ramipril capsules and tablets](#)
  - [BNF: Ramipril](#)
  - [Serious Shortage Protocol for ramipril 2.5mg tablets](#)
  - [NICE CKS: Prescribing information - ACE inhibitors NICE CKS: Chronic Heart failure - ACE inhibitors](#)

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

10. 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.
11. 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**

12. 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).