



28 August 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Naltrexone 50mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late October 2024

Issue

1. Naltrexone 50mg tablets (Accord) are in limited supply until early September 2024 and then out of stock until late October 2024.
2. Naltrexone (Adepend®) 50mg tablets (AOP Orphan) are out of stock until mid-September 2024 and are unable to support increased demand once back in stock.
3. Naltrexone 50mg tablets (AOP Orphan) remain available and can support the increased demand.

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians should:
 - not initiate patients on the Accord or Adepend® products until the shortages have resolved;
 - prescribe naltrexone 50mg tablets (AOP Orphan), noting and explaining to the patient that use for alcohol dependence is off-label (see Additional Information).
5. Pharmacists should:
 - explain to patients dispensed naltrexone 50mg tablets (AOP Orphan) for alcohol dependence about the shortage and that although the package insert relates only to use for opioid dependency, it is the same treatment that would be used for alcohol dependence; and
 - ensure the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose required (see Additional Information).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

6. Naltrexone 50mg tablets (Accord) are licensed for use as an additional therapy within a comprehensive treatment program including psychological guidance for detoxified patients who have been opioid-dependent and alcohol-dependent to support abstinence. The initial dose should be 25mg (half a tablet) for an opioid dependent patient on day 1 followed by the usual dose of one tablet per day (50mg) thereafter (but a slower titration may be considered by the

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

clinician based on tolerability). The recommended dose for alcohol dependence to support abstinence is 50mg per day.

7. Naltrexone 50mg tablets (AOP Orphan) are licenced for treatment of opioid addiction. Use for the treatment of alcohol addiction would be off-label. Dosing would be as for the Accord product.

Links to further information

- [SmPC naltrexone 50mg tablet \(Accord\)](#)
- [SmPC naltrexone 50mg tablet \(AOP Orphan\)](#)
- [SmPC naltrexone \(Adepend®\) 50mg tablets \(AOP Orphan\)](#)
- [BNF Naltrexone hydrochloride](#)
- [NICE TA115 - Naltrexone for the management of opioid dependence](#)
- [NICE CG115: Alcohol-use disorders](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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).