



28 August 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Norethisterone (Noriday®) 350microgram tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: early December 2024**

#### **Issue**

1. Norethisterone (Noriday®) 350microgram tablets will be out of stock from late August 2024 until early December 2024.
2. Desogestrel 75microgram tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Levonorgestrel (Norgeston®) 30microgram tablets remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. Prescribers should:
  - identify patients who have insufficient supplies of norethisterone (Noriday®) 350microgram tablets to last until the re-supply date;
  - consider prescribing desogestrel 75microgram tablets, if appropriate, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to the drug and any of the excipients and is counselled on the dosing regimen and management of missed doses (see additional information section); and
  - if desogestrel is not suitable, discuss other contraceptive options with patient.

#### **Additional Information**

##### **Clinical Information**

5. Noriday® is an older generation progestogen-only pill (POP) and the only one containing norethisterone. It has a three-hour missed dose window. Another older generation POP is Norgeston® (levonorgestrel 30microgram), which also has the same missed dose time window. The newer generation POPs contain desogestrel 75microgram (branded generic formulations available) which have a longer time window for missed doses. Switches between POPs can be made at any time in the cycle.
6. The off-label use of 3 tablets of Noriday® tablets daily to provide 1.05mg of norethisterone is part of a continuous combined HRT regimen for endometrial protection in non-hysterectomised women recommended by the British Menopause Society. Another norethisterone based-regimen that is recommended is use of 5mg tablets for 12 days a month (cyclical).

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

## Links to further information

- [FSRH Clinical Guideline: Progestogen-only pills](#)
- [Oral progestogen-only contraceptives - BNF](#)
- [Progestogen-only pill | CKS | NICE](#)
- [SmPC – Desogestrel 75microgram tablets](#)
- [SmPC – Norgeston 30microgram tablets](#)
- [SmPC – Noriday 350microgram tablets](#)
- [British Menopause Society. Progestogens and endometrial protection](#)

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

7. 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.
8. 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**

9. 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).