

16 October 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Toraseamide 10mg tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: March 2025**

#### **Issue**

1. Toraseamide 10mg tablets are in limited supply until March 2025.
2. Toraseamide 5mg tablets remain available and can support a partial increase in demand.
3. Alternative loop diuretics remain available (see Additional information).

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. Prescribers should:
  - not initiate new patients on toraseamide 10mg tablets until the shortage has resolved;
  - where patients are unable to obtain further supplies of toraseamide 10mg tablets to last until the resupply date, consider prescribing an alternative loop diuretic (furosemide or bumetanide tablets) and;
  - for any patients unable to switch, review the reason for this, and reserve remaining supplies of toraseamide 5mg and 10mg tablets for patients who are still considered unsuitable for or intolerant of alternative loop diuretics.

#### **Additional Information**

5. Toraseamide is a loop diuretic that differs slightly in pharmacokinetics to the other agents in this class. The 10mg tablets are licensed for the treatment of oedema due to congestive heart failure, hepatic, pulmonary or renal oedema. The licensed dose range of toraseamide is 5mg to 20mg per day; and in individual cases, as high as 40mg per day. The licensed dose range of alternative loops diuretics should be referred to as a guide to aid dose selection (see table from [CKS](#)) and titrated according to symptoms and tolerability.

Table from [CKS](#): Loop diuretic doses for people with heart failure.

Diuretic	Daily starting dose	Usual daily dose
Bumetanide	0.5 mg in the elderly to 1.0 mg	1 mg to 5 mg
Furosemide	20 mg to 40 mg	20 mg to 160 mg
Toraseamide	5 mg to 10 mg	10 mg to 20 mg

### Links to further information

- [SmPC Torasemide 5mg tablets](#)
- [SmPC Torasemide 10mg tablets](#)
- [SmPC Furosemide 20mg tablets](#)
- [SmPC Furosemide 40mg tablets](#)
- [SmPC Bumetanide 1mg tabs](#)
- [SmPC Bumetanide 5mg tabs](#)
- [BNF Torasemide](#)
- [BNF: Treatment Summary- Diuretics](#)
- [CKS: Heart failure - chronic- diuretics](#)

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

6. 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.
7. 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**

8. 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).