



11 December 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Coal tar extract (Neutrogena® T/Gel® Therapeutic) 2% shampoo

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: product is being discontinued from February 2025.

Issue

1. Coal tar extract (Neutrogena® T/Gel® Therapeutic) 2% shampoo (all pack sizes) is being discontinued from February 2025.
2. Alternative coal tar extract preparations remain available and are able to support an increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

3. Clinicians should:
 - not initiate any new patients on Neutrogena® T/Gel® therapeutic shampoo;
 - consider prescribing an alternative coal tar extract preparation, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (see Additional information); or
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical information

Preparation <i>SmPC's linked</i>	Active ingredient	Indication	Licensed age range	Stock status
Psoriderm® Scalp Lotion	Distilled coal tar 2.5% w/v	Topical treatment of psoriasis of the scalp.	Adults and children	In stock- able to support a full increase in demand.
Capasal® Therapeutic Shampoo	Distilled coal tar 1.0% w/w Salicylic acid 0.5% w/w Coconut oil 1.0% w/w Excipients with known	Treatment of dry, scaly scalp conditions such as seborrhoeic eczema, seborrhoeic dermatitis, pityriasis capitis, psoriasis and cradle cap in children. May also be used to	Adults and children	In stock- able to support a full increase in demand.

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

	<u>effect</u> : Sodium benzoate (E211)	remove previous scalp applications.		
Polytar® Scalp Shampoo	Coal tar solution 4% w/w Excipients with known effect: Benzyl alcohol 1.0% w/w Fragrance Oil 0.5% w/w	Treatment of scalp disorders including: psoriasis, seborrhoeic dermatitis, eczema, pruritus and scaling associated with psoriasis, seborrhoeic dermatitis and eczema, itchy oily scalp, and dandruff.	Adults and adolescents* *not established for use in children under 12 years.	Out of stock until late December 2024. Able to support a full increase in demand from this time.
Exorex® Lotion	Coal tar solution 5% v/w Excipients with known effect: Methyl hydroxybenzoate (E218) 0.10% w/w Propyl hydroxybenzoate (E216) 0.05% w/w Hydrogenated polyoxyl castor oil 0.45% w/w	Treatment of psoriasis of the skin and scalp.	Adults and children* *administration instructions differ depending on patient age.	In stock - able to support a full increase in demand.
Sebco® ointment	Coal Tar Solution 12.0% w/w Sulfur for External Use 4.0% w/w Salicylic Acid 2.0% w/w Excipients with known effect: Cetostearyl alcohol 11.0 % w/w	Treatment of scaly skin disorders of the scalp such as psoriasis, eczema, seborrhoeic dermatitis and dandruff.	Adults and children over 12 years* *to be use in children 6-12 years with medical supervision only. Not recommended for children under 6 years.	In stock- able to support a full increase in demand.
Cocois® Ointment	Coal Tar Solution BP 12% w/w Precipitated Sulphur Ph.Eur 4% w/w Salicylic Acid Ph.Eur 2% w/w	Treatment of scaly skin disorders of the scalp such as psoriasis, eczema, seborrhoeic dermatitis and dandruff.	Adults and children over 12 years* *to be use in children 6-12 years with medical supervision only. Not recommended for children under 6 years.	In stock- cannot support any increase in demand.

Individual SmPCs should be checked for dosing, contraindications, cautions and the full list of excipients as these vary between products.

Links to further information

- [NICE- Clinical Knowledge Summaries: Coal Tar Products](#)
- [BNF: Coal Tar](#)
- [SmPC: Neutrogena TGel Therapeutic Shampoo](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

4. 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.
5. 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

6. 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).