



11 December 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose) 0.1% eye drops

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: mid-March 2025

Issue

1. Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose) 0.1% eye drops are out of stock until mid-March 2025.
2. Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha) 0.1% eye drops 0.3ml unit dose preservative free remain in stock but are unable to support an increase in demand. These and other unit dose NSAID preparations should be reserved for patients who require preservative free eye drops.
3. Ketorolac 0.5% eye drops remain available and can support increased demand.
4. Bromfenac 0.9mg/ml eye drops and nepafenac 1mg/ml and 3mg/ml eye drops remain available but are unable to support an increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

5. Prescribers should:
 - not initiate new patients on Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose 0.1% eye drops until the shortage has resolved;
 - review patients prescribed Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose 0.1% eye drops and prescribe ketorolac 0.5% eye drops where appropriate, referring to local formulary/guidance, and treatment history, noting that this may lead to off-label prescribing in some instances (see Additional information and refer to SmPC for dosing, contraindications, cautions and excipients); and
 - where it is unclear if ketorolac eyedrops are interchangeable with diclofenac eye drops, or are not considered appropriate, specialist advice should be sought on management options.

Additional Information

6. Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose eye drops contain the NSAID diclofenac and are used for the treatment of pain and inflammation. Its product licence also covers use for inhibition of intraoperative miosis and seasonal allergic conjunctivitis.
7. The NSAID eyedrops have a common mechanism of action but vary in their licensed indications and what they are marketed for.
8. Ketorolac 0.5% eye drops are licensed for the prophylaxis and reduction of inflammation and associated symptoms following ocular surgery in adults.

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

Links to further information

- [SmPC Voltarol Ophtha Multidose](#)
- [SmPC Voltarol Ophtha Unit Doses](#)
- [SmPC Ketorolac trometamol 0.5% eye drops](#)
- [BNF Diclofenac sodium](#)
- [BNF Eye, allergy and inflammation](#)
- [NICE CKS Conjunctivitis – allergic](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

9. 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.
10. 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

11. 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).