

27 December 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Prednisolone 20mg/100ml rectal solution

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: February 2025

Issue

1. Prednisolone 20mg/100ml rectal solution is out of stock until February 2025.
2. Alternative rectal steroids remain available and can support an increased demand.

Advice and Actions

3. No new patients should be initiated on prednisolone 20mg/100ml rectal solution until the supply issues have resolved.
4. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date(s), prescribers should:
 - consider switching to an alternative rectal steroid preparation (see Additional information section), taking into account treatment history and previous adverse reactions; and
 - ensure that the patient is not intolerant to the drug or any of the excipients in the product selected and is counselled on dosing and administration.
5. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

6. Prednisolone rectal solution contains 20mg prednisolone in 100ml buffered solution. It is licensed for the treatment of rectal and rectosigmoidal disease in ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. One enema is administered every night for 2 to 4 weeks. Each 100ml single dose is supplied in a disposable bottle with separate PVC nozzle and protective plastic bags.

Links to further information

- [SmPC - Prednisolone 20mg/100ml Rectal Solution](#)
- [SmPC - Prednisolone 5mg Suppositories](#)
- [SmPC - Prednisolone 20mg/dose Rectal Foam \(PREDFOAM\)](#)

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

- [SmPC - Budesonide 2mg /100 ml Rectal Solution \(Entocort Enema\)](#)
- [SmPC - Budesonide 2mg/dose Rectal Foam \(Budenofalk\)](#)

Table 1: Alternative rectal steroids

Product	Drug and strength	Presentation	Licensed indication	Dose
Prednisolone 5mg Suppositories	Prednisolone 5mg	Each cartoned plastic mould contains 10 suppositories	Treatment of haemorrhagic and granular proctitis and anal complications of Crohn's disease	One at night and one in morning
PREDFOAM®	Prednisolone 20mg/dose Rectal Foam	Aerosol with a metering valve containing sufficient for 14 doses plus 14 disposable applicators	Treatment of proctitis and ulcerative colitis	One metered dose once or twice daily for 2 weeks, extending for further 2 weeks when good response obtained
Entocort Enema®	Budesonide 0.02 mg/ml (2mg /100 ml)	Each carton contains 7 dispersible tablets, 7 vehicle solutions for rectal suspension, 7 nozzles (enema applicators), and 7 plastic bags	Ulcerative colitis involving rectal and recto-sigmoid disease	One enema nightly for 4 weeks, may be prolonged to 8 weeks
Budenofalk 2mg/dose rectal foam	Budesonide 2mg/dose	Pressurised container with metering valve, 14 PVC applicators coated with white soft paraffin and liquid paraffin for administration of foam and 14 plastic bags	Treatment of active ulcerative colitis limited to rectum and sigmoid colon	One actuation daily

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 (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).