



16 January 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Zanamivir (Dectova®) 200mg/20ml solution for infusion vials

Priority: Level 3*

Valid until: late January 2025

Issue

1. Zanamivir (Dectova®) 200mg/20ml solution for infusion vials are in limited supply until late January 2025.
2. Access to zanamivir (Dectova®) 200mg/20ml solution for infusion vials should be prioritised for patients where alternative routes of administration are not possible or alternative antiviral treatments are not appropriate.
3. Zanamivir (Relenza®) 5mg inhalation powder blisters with device remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
4. All strengths and formulations of oseltamivir remain available.

Advice and Actions

5. Clinicians should:
 - review [Guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of seasonal influenza](#) and [Seasonal influenza - Guidance for adult critical care units](#) to determine if zanamivir (Dectova®) 200mg/20ml solution for infusion vials are the most appropriate treatment. Zanamivir (Dectova®) 200mg/20ml solution for infusion vials should only be considered if:
 - the patient's influenza virus is known or suspected to be resistant to antiviral influenza medicinal products other than zanamivir; and/or
 - other antiviral medicinal products for the treatment of influenza, including zanamivir (Relenza®) 5mg inhalation powder blisters with device, are not suitable for the individual patient.
 - ensure oral or inhaled options have been considered including the placement of a nasogastric tube.
6. Health Board pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to review local stock holdings, and where there are insufficient stocks and clinical judgement determines that an individual should be prescribed zanamivir (Dectova®) 200mg/20ml solution for infusion vials:
 - Consider mutual aid where necessary;
 - review treatment at 5 days to assess whether continued therapy is required; and

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

- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.
7. Wholesaler back orders have been cancelled. Health Boards who have previously placed an order will need to place new orders conservatively in line with demand, once stocks are available in wholesale.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

8. In [Guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of seasonal influenza](#), see figure 1 on page 9 for the algorithm for selection of antiviral therapy for treatment of influenza.
9. Clinicians should not use the powder from zanamivir (Relenza®) 5mg inhalation powder blisters to make a nebuliser solution as it may cause ventilators to fail.

Links to further information

- [SmPC Dectova® 10 mg/mL solution for infusion](#)
- [SmPC Relenza® 5mg/dose inhalation powder](#)
- [SmPC Oseltamivir](#)
- [NICE CKS Treatment of influenza](#)
- [UKHSA Guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of seasonal influenza Seasonal influenza - Guidance for adult critical care units](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

10. 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.
11. 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

12. 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).