



5 February 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Memantine (Valios®) 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late April 2025

Issue

1. Memantine (Valios®) 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free are out of stock until late April 2025.
2. Memantine (Valios®) 5 mg/10 mg/15 mg/20 mg orodispersible tablets initiation pack sugar free has been out of stock since 2020 and the resupply date is unknown.
3. Memantine 5 mg/10 mg/15 mg/20 mg tablets treatment initiation pack remains available and can support increased demand. (Note: film coated tablets).
4. Memantine 10mg/ml oral solution sugar free and memantine (Ebixa®) 5mg/0.5ml pump actuation oral solution remain available and can support increased demand.
5. Memantine 10mg and 20mg film coated tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
6. Memantine (Valios®) 10mg and 20mg orodispersible tablets sugar free remain available and can support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

7. When initiating and titrating new patients on memantine treatment who are able to safely swallow solid dosage forms, clinicians should consider prescribing memantine 5 mg/10 mg/15 mg/20 mg tablets treatment initiation pack (see Additional information).
8. When initiating and titrating new patients on memantine treatment who are *unable* to safely swallow solid dosage forms, clinicians should consider:
 - in those able to safely swallow thin liquids, prescribing memantine oral solution, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and counselling them and/or caregiver on the appropriate dose and volume to be administered, and how to administer the dose (including how to use the dosing pump if a formulation with pump is prescribed); or
 - in those unable to safely swallow thin liquids (requiring a texture-modified diet), prescribing half of a 10mg film coated tablet to be crushed and administered with a small amount of appropriate food or thickened liquid (off-label use), ensuring that the patient and/or caregiver is provided with a tablet cutter and counselled on how to administer the dose (see Additional information).
9. Once the patient has reached maintenance dose of 20mg, prescribers can consider switching patient to memantine (Valios®) 20mg orodispersible tablets.

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

10. When prescribing alternative formulations of memantine, the individual [SmPCs](#) should be consulted for cautions, contraindications and excipients, as these may vary between products.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

11. Memantine is licensed for the treatment of moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease in adults. In order to reduce the risk of undesirable effects, the maintenance dose is achieved by upward titration of 5 mg per week over the first 3 weeks as follows: 5mg once a day for 7 days, 10mg once a day for 7 days, 15mg once a day for 7 days, then 20mg once a day, which is the maximum daily dose.
12. The 10 mg film coated tablets are scored and can be halved into equal doses, to allow 5mg dosing increments.

Links to further information

- [SmPC Valios 5mg Orodispersible Tablets](#)
- [Ebixa 5mg/pump actuation oral solution](#)
- [SmPC Ebixa Treatment Initiation Pack](#)
- [SmPC Memantine Lupin titration pack](#)
- [SmPC Memantine 10mg/ml oral solution](#)
- [SmPC Memantine 10 mg film coated tablets](#)
- [SmPCs Memantine](#)
- [BNF: Memantine](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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).