



14 February 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Quetiapine 50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400mg modified-release tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: Various dates, please refer to the summary supply table below

Issue

1. There are supply constraints affecting quetiapine 50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400mg modified-release tablets (see supply summary table in Additional information section).
2. Quetiapine immediate release tablets remain available and can support the increased demand. Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of quetiapine modified-release tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Advice and Actions

3. Clinicians should not initiate new patients on quetiapine modified-release tablets until the supply issues have resolved.
4. Where existing patients have insufficient supply of quetiapine modified-release tablets, clinicians should consider prescribing quetiapine immediate release tablets at equivalent daily dose, ensuring patients are counselled if there is a change in dose frequency (see Additional information section); or where this option is not appropriate, prescribing:
 - quetiapine modified-release tablets generically, to enable any available brand to be dispensed, considering patient preferences, known allergies and medical history. Due to limited availability of quetiapine modified-release tablets, prescribers should confirm availability with their local pharmacy before prescribing; or
 - unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Additional information below).
5. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.
6. Additional actions for prescribers in Health and Justice settings:
 - continue to review patients as usual to confirm quetiapine is still the most suitable therapy.
 - complete a reassessment of in-possession (IP) quetiapine as part of a clinical review of new and existing patients. In-possession supplies of quetiapine will support the use of immediate

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

release tablets in line with the MSAN along with the usual benefits of an IP approach for those patients not at risk of self-harm.

Additional Information

Supply summary table

| Brand | 50mg | 150mg | 200mg | 300mg | 400mg | 600mg |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--------------|
| Atrolak [®] XL | In stock: cannot support increased demand | Out of stock until March 2025 | Out of stock until October 2025 | Out of stock until October 2025 | Out of stock until October 2025 | Not marketed |
| Brancico [®] XL | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Not marketed |
| Biquelle [®] XL (30) | Out of stock until May 2025 | In stock: cannot support increased demand | Out of stock until May 2025 | Out of stock until May 2025 | Limited supplies until May 2025 | In stock |
| Biquelle [®] XL (60) | Limited supplies until May 2025 | Limited supplies until May 2025 | Out of stock until May 2025 | Out of stock until May 2025 | Out of stock until May 2025 | Not marketed |
| Mintreleq [®] XL | Out of stock until August 2025 | Limited supplies until July 2025 | Out of stock until August 2025 | Out of stock until August 2025 | Limited supplies until August 2025 | Not marketed |
| Seroquel [®] XL | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | Not marketed |
| Sondate [®] XL | Out of stock until March 2025 | Out of stock until February 2025 | In stock: cannot support increased demand | Out of stock until March 2025 | In stock: cannot support increased demand | Not marketed |
| Zaluron [®] XL | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | In stock: can support a limited increase in demand | Not marketed |
| Quetiapine modified-release tablets (generic) | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Out of stock: no resupply date | Not marketed |

Clinical Information

7. Quetiapine is licensed for the treatment of:

- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar disorder (for treating the moderate to severe manic and major depressive episodes, and for prevention of their recurrence in patients who previously responded to quetiapine treatment).

8. It is also licensed as add-on treatment of major depressive episodes in patients with major depressive disorder who have had sub-optimal response to antidepressant monotherapy.

9. Consumption of a high-fat meal increases bioavailability of quetiapine in the modified-release formulations. Food has a minimal effect on quetiapine absorption in the immediate release formulations.

10. The modified-release tablets are administered once daily without food, at least one hour before a meal. The immediate release tablets are administered with or without food, once or twice a day, depending on indication.

11. For patients switched from once daily modified-release tablets to immediate release tablets, the total daily dose of quetiapine is split into a twice daily regimen or taken once daily, depending on indication; individual dosage adjustments may be necessary.

Links to further information

- [SmPC quetiapine](#)
- [BNF quetiapine](#)
- [BNFC quetiapine](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

12. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed quetiapine modified-release (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Mawdsleys

13. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board or local governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes. Please see the links below for further information:

- [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC).

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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).