



8 April 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Apraclonidine (Iopidine®) 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: early September 2025

Issue

1. Apraclonidine (Iopidine®) 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops are out of stock until early September 2025.
2. Limited supplies of parallel imported apraclonidine (Iopidine®) 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops are available.
3. Brimonidine 0.2% eye drops remain available and can support increased demand.
4. Apraclonidine 10mg/ml (1%) preservative free unit dose eye drops remain available and can support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

5. Where apraclonidine (Iopidine®) 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops are not available, clinicians in secondary care should:
 - not initiate new patients on apraclonidine 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops;
 - review existing patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
 - consider prescribing brimonidine 0.2% eye drops, if appropriate, until the shortage has resolved, taking into account treatments the patient has previously tried, or
 - if this is not suitable or not tolerated, consider prescribing apraclonidine (Iopidine®) 10mg/ml (1%) preservative free unit dose eye drops (off-label), and
 - review local guidance on prescribing of apraclonidine 10mg/ml (1%) preservative free unit dose eye drops in primary care, and liaise with primary care colleagues, as needed.
6. Clinicians in primary care who are presented with a request for a further supply of apraclonidine 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops should seek advice from the patient's specialist on the most appropriate management option, if no communication has been issued locally.
7. Where alternative eye drops are prescribed, ensure the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the dosing regimen.

Additional Information

Product	Apraclonidine 5mg/ml (0.5%) eye drops	Brimonidine 0.2% eye drops	Apraclonidine 10mg/ml (1%) preservative free unit dose eye drops*
Licensed indication	Short-term adjunctive therapy of chronic glaucoma in patients on maximally tolerated medical therapy who require additional intraocular pressure (IOP) reduction to delay laser treatment or glaucoma surgery.	Reduction of elevated IOP in patients with open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension: as monotherapy in patients in whom topical beta-blocker therapy is contra-indicated, and as adjunctive therapy to other IOP lowering medications when target IOP is not achieved with a single agent.	Control or prevention of postsurgical elevations in IOP in patients after anterior segment laser surgery.
Dosage	One drop into affected eye(s) three times per day.	One drop into affected eye(s) twice daily.	One drop into eye scheduled for operation 1 hour before initiating anterior segment laser surgery. A second drop into same eye immediately upon completion of laser surgical procedure.

*Maybe available for use under specialist supervision or on specialist initiation in local formularies. Refer to local formulary.

Links to further information

- [SmPC apraclonidine \(lopidine\) 5mg/ml eye drops](#)
- [SmPC brimonidine 0.2% eye drops](#)
- [SmPC apraclonidine \(lopidine\) 1% eye drops unit dose preservative free](#)
- [BNF apraclonidine](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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).