



11 April 2025

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Estradiol (Estradot®) 25 micrograms/24 hours, 37.5 micrograms/24 hours, 50 micrograms/24 hours, 75 micrograms/24 hours, and 100 micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches – Update**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: various resupply dates – see below**

#### **Issue**

1. Estradiol (Estradot®) **25 micrograms/24hours** and **50 micrograms/24hours** transdermal patches will be out of stock until **early May 2025**.
2. Limited supplies of **estradiol (Estradot®) 75 micrograms/24hours** and **100 micrograms/24hours** transdermal patches are available until **early May 2025**.
3. Estradiol (Estradot®) **37.5 micrograms/24hours** transdermal patches will be out of stock from late-April until **July 2025**.
4. Alternative brands of estradiol patches (Evorel® and Estraderm MX®) across these strengths are available and can support a full uplift in demand.
5. FemSeven® (estradiol) transdermal patches (once weekly application) remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
6. Progynova® (estradiol) transdermal patches also remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
7. Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for estradiol (Estradot®) 25 micrograms/24hours, 50 micrograms/24 hours, 75 micrograms/24 hours and 100 micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches were issued (see [PCA\(P\)\(2025\)05](#), [PCA\(P\)\(2024\)35](#), [PCA\(P\)\(2024\)36](#) and [PCA\(P\)\(2024\)37](#)).

#### **Advice and Actions**

8. Prescribers should not initiate new people on Estradot® **25 micrograms/24hours**, **37.5 micrograms/24hours**, **50 micrograms/24hours**, **75 micrograms/24hours** and **100 micrograms/24hours** transdermal patches until the supply issues have resolved.
9. For those with insufficient supplies of Estradot® 25 micrograms/24hours, 50 micrograms/24 hours, 75 micrograms/24 hours and 100 micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches:
  - community pharmacists may supply an equivalent strength of Evorel® or Estraderm MX® transdermal patches in accordance with the SSP for eligible patients (see additional information section); and
  - if the above options are not appropriate or an individual has previously had intolerances to Evorel® or Estraderm MX® patches, refer them to their prescriber to establish if ongoing

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

treatment is required, and/or to consider use of an alternative [available hormone replacement therapy \(HRT\)](#).

10. For people with insufficient supplies of Estradot® **37.5 micrograms/24hours** transdermal patches:

- prescribers should consider prescribing Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25micrograms/24hours patches, advising the person to cut a patch in half (off-label use) and apply one and a half patches to provide a 37.5 micrograms/24hours dose. The remaining half can be put back into the packet for the next dose. Ensure the person is able to carry out this manipulation (see additional information section);
- clearly annotate the prescription to emphasise the dose i.e. one and a half patches of the Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25 micrograms/24hours are to be applied and ensure the person understands dosing and administration; and
- community pharmacists should counsel anyone impacted on the change in brand and how to deliver a 37.5 microgram dose at the point of supply.

## **Additional Information**

### Clinical Information

11. Estradot® patches are licensed as hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for oestrogen deficiency symptoms in postmenopausal women.

### Links to further information

- [SmPC Estradot® patches](#)
- [SmPC Evorel® patches](#)
- [SmPC Estraderm MX® patches](#)
- [British Menopause Society – HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives](#)
- [British Society for Paediatric endocrinology and Diabetes patient information leaflet - guidance on cutting Evorel® and Estraderm MX® patches](#)
- [SSP Estradiol \(Estradot®\) 25micrograms/24hours, 50microgram/24hours, 75micrograms/24 hours and 100microgram/24hours transdermal patches](#)
- [CKS: Menopause- Hormone replacement therapy](#)

### Further updates

12. The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will continue to provide updates on HRT stock availability on the [Medicine Supply Tool](#) (registration required) and designated '[Prescribing available HRT products](#)' page on the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website.

## **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

13. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with Specialist Pharmacy Service (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](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).