



11 April 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/ml (Adcortyl® ampoules) and 40mg/ml (Kenalog® vials) suspension for injection

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: noted products are being discontinued

Issue

1. Triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/ml (Adcortyl® ampoules) and 40mg/ml (Kenalog® vials) suspension for injection are being **discontinued** with stock expected to be exhausted by early June 2025.
2. Dexamethasone sodium phosphate 3.3mg/ml and 3.8mg/ml injections are available and can support increased demand (see additional information section).
3. Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection is available and can support increased demand (see additional information section).
4. Methylprednisolone sodium succinate (Solu-Medrone®) 500mg and 1g injection and methylprednisolone acetate (Depo-Medrone®) 40mg/ml injection are available and can support increased demand (see additional information section).
5. Unlicensed supplies of triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/1ml suspension for injection ampoules and triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/1ml suspension for injection vials have been sourced; lead times may vary.

Advice and Actions

6. Prescribers in primary and secondary care should:
 - review people and consider prescribing alternative steroid injections (see additional information); or
 - consider prescribing unlicensed imports of triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/1ml suspension for injection ampoules and triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/1ml suspension for injection vials only where licensed alternatives are not considered appropriate;
 - seek advice from specialists on management options, where the above options are not considered appropriate.

Additional Information

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

Corticosteroid preparation	Licensed indication	Route of administration
Adcortyl®*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviating joint pain, swelling and stiffness associated with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, with an inflammatory component, also for bursitis, epicondylitis, and tenosynovitis. ¶ Lichen simplex chronicus (neuro-dermatitis), granuloma annulare, lichen planus, keloids, alopecia areata and hypertrophic scars. ¶ 	Intra-articular*, Intradermal ¶
Kenalog®*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviating joint pain, swelling and stiffness associated with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, with an inflammatory component, also for bursitis, epicondylitis, and tenosynovitis. ¶ Treatment of conditions where sustained corticosteroid treatment is required [In practice, the use of Kenalog® for treating hayfever is discouraged]. ¶ 	Intra-articular*, intramuscular ¶
Available corticosteroid injections that can support increase in demand		
Dexamethasone 3.3mg/ml and 3.8mg/ml solution for injection	Endocrine disorders, non-endocrine corticosteroid-responsive conditions, local administration for soft-tissue disorders, intraarticular disorders and soft tissue disorders	Intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intraarticular, intrabursal, intralesional
Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection	Any condition in which rapid and intense corticosteroid effect is required	Intravenous, intramuscular
Methylprednisolone (Depo-Medrone®) 40mg/1ml suspension for injection	Rheumatic disorders, collagen diseases/arthritis, dermatological diseases, allergic states, GI diseases, respiratory diseases, TB meningitis, soft-tissue disorders	Intramuscular, intraarticular, periarticular, intrabursal, into tendon sheath, intralesional
Methylprednisolone (Solu-Medrone®) 500mg and 1g powder and solvent for solution for injection vials	Any condition in which rapid and intense corticosteroid effect is required	Intravenous, intramuscular

*Off label uses also reported in practice

Links to further information

- [SmPC Kenalog 40mg/1ml suspension for injection vials](#)
- [SmPC dexamethasone sodium phosphate \(3.3mg/ml or 3.8mg/ml\) injection](#)
- [SmPC hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection](#)
- [SmPC methylprednisolone sodium succinate \(Solu-Medrone\) injection](#)
- [SmPC methylprednisolone acetate \(Depo-Medrone\) injection](#)
- [BNF triamcinolone acetonide](#)
- [BNF corticosteroids inflammatory disorders](#)
- [NICE CKS rheumatoid arthritis](#)
- [NICE CKS osteoarthritis](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

7. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/ml and/or triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/ml injections (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
- Alium medical
 - Chemys
 - Durbin
 - Genetech
 - Mawdsleys
 - Qmed
 - Smartway
 - Tanner Pharma
 - Target
8. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board 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

9. 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.
10. 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

11. 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).