



22 April 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Levofloxacin 250mg and 500mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late May 2025

Issue

1. Levofloxacin 250mg tablets are in limited supply until late April 2025.
2. Levofloxacin 500mg tablets are in limited supply until late May 2025.
3. Alternative antibiotics remain available and can support increased demand.
4. Where alternative antibiotics are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of levofloxacin tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Advice and Actions

5. Prescribers should:
 - prioritise remaining supplies of levofloxacin 250mg and 500mg tablets for patients with severe pneumonia and a severe penicillin allergy;
 - refer to local guidance and/or seek advice from an infection specialist for alternative options; and
 - prescribe unlicensed levofloxacin tablets only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate.
6. When prescribing alternative antibiotics, prescribers should consider penicillin allergy severity, indication, Gram positive/negative coverage, pregnancy status, and local prescribing guidelines.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

7. Levofloxacin is used in the treatment of patients with severe pneumonia who are penicillin allergic and for pyelonephritis or bacterial prostatitis.

Links to further information

- [SmPC levofloxacin](#)
- [BNF levofloxacin](#)

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

- [BNF Respiratory system infections, antibacterial therapy treatment summary](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

8. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed levofloxacin 250mg and 500mg tablets. Please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies:
 - Alium
 - Smartway
9. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS 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

10. 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.
11. 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

12. 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).