

07 May 2025

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Tuberculosis (TB) oral medicines**

**Priority: Level 2\***

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

#### **Issue**

1. A number of fixed combination TB medicines are currently experiencing supply issues.
2. For detailed information on stock availability, suggested management plans, and expected re-supply dates for the affected products, please refer to the table in the 'Additional Information' section.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams (including prescribers and TB nurses) should work together to ensure that:
  - stock holdings of TB medicines are reviewed regularly;
  - alternatives, as advised in the summary table, are ordered for TB medicines in short supply;
  - prescriptions are amended when the usual/preferred TB medicine is unavailable to avoid delays or interruptions in treatment;
  - prescriptions for impacted TB medicines are limited to a maximum of one month's supply to preserve supplies as long as possible;
  - Health Boards should facilitate mutual aid if required;
  - management plans that are not in line with the advice in this document are not implemented, as they may lead to further stockouts;
  - people are appropriately counselled about changes to their usual or expected medication; and
  - multi-language patient-facing communications are provided where appropriate, ensuring people are informed of any medication changes;

#### **Additional Information**

##### **Clinical information**

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

4. The World Health Organization recommends fixed dose combination tablets over separate drugs, particularly in people with HIV co-infection to reduce pill burden and improve adherence. Switching from fixed dose combinations to prescribing the individual components is not recommended due to risk of inadvertent dosing errors, poor adherence and treatment failure.
5. To reduce risks of unintended consequences, it is important that, where possible, fixed dose combination alternatives are prescribed to support management of affected patients

#### Supply Information

Product	Supplier	Current stock position	Anticipated re-supply date	Management Plan
Rifampicin 150mg capsules	<b>Sanofi</b>	Out of stock	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Purchase from Viatris to meet patient need until re-supply.</b>
	Viatris UK Healthcare Ltd	In stock		
Rifampicin 300mg capsules	<b>Sandoz</b>	Out of stock	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Purchase from alternate suppliers to meet patient need until re-supply.</b>
	Sanofi	In stock		
	Viatris UK Healthcare Ltd	In stock		
	DrugsRUs (Parallel Import)	In stock		
Rifampicin 100mg/5ml syrup	<b>Sanofi</b>	In stock		
Ethambutol 100mg tablets	<b>Esteve</b>	In stock		
	<b>Morningside</b>	In stock		
Ethambutol 400mg tablets	<b>Esteve</b>	In stock		
	<b>Morningside</b>	In stock		
Pyrazinamide 500mg tablets	<b>Macleod's</b>	In stock		
	<b>Morningside</b>	In stock		
Isoniazid 50mg tablets	<b>DrugsRUs</b>	In stock		
	RPH Pharmaceuticals	In stock		
Isoniazid 100mg tablets	<b>DrugsRUs</b>	In stock		
	Morningside	In stock		
	RPH Pharmaceuticals	In stock		

Rifinah® 150 tablets (rifampicin 150mg/isoniazid 100mg)	<b>Sanofi</b>	In stock		
Rifinah® 300 tablets (rifampicin 300mg/isoniazid 150mg)	<b>DrugsRUs</b>	Out of stock	TBC	<b>Order unlicensed imports:</b> The following specialist importer has confirmed they currently have stock available: Tanner Pharma. The following specialist importers have advised they can source supplies (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies): Alium Medical, Alcatia Pharma, Clinigen, Durbin PLC, Genetech, QMED Pharma
	<b>Day Lewis Medical Ltd</b>	Out of stock	TBC	
	Sanofi	Very limited stock	19-May-25	
Rifater® tablets (rifampicin)  120mg/pyrazinamide 300mg/isoniazid 50mg)	<b>DrugsRUs</b>	Out of stock	TBC	<b>Purchase from Sanofi: Please note that Sanofi's limited supply can only support the demand for Rifater and cannot accommodate any additional needs arising from other shortages.</b>
	Sanofi	In stock		
Voractiv® tablets (ethambutol hydrochloride 275 mg/isoniazid  75 mg/ pyrazinamide  400 mg/ rifampicin 150 mg)	<b>Thornton &amp; Ross</b>	Out of stock	23-Jun-25	Prescribe/dispense either Rifinah® 150 tablets OR imports of Rifinah® 300 tablets in addition to Pyrazinamide 500mg, Ethambutol 100mg, Ethambutol 400mg OR the individual components to meet the immediate patient need until resupply. <b>Do NOT switch to Rifater® and Rifinah® 300 tablets as they cannot support any increase in demand.</b>

6. Please note that the information outlined above is correct on day of publication but may be subject to change.

#### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

7. 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).

## Links to further information

- [BNF Ethambutol preparations](#)
- [SmPC Ethambutol preparations](#)
- [BNF Isoniazid preparations](#)
- [SmPC Isoniazid preparations](#)
- [BNF Pyrazinamide preparations](#)
- [SmPC Pyrazinamide preparations](#)
- [BNF Rifampicin preparations](#)
- [SmPC Rifampicin preparations](#)
- [BNF Rifater<sup>®</sup> Tablets](#)
- [SmPC Rifater<sup>®</sup> Tablets](#)
- [BNF Voractiv<sup>®</sup> Tablets](#)
- [SmPC Voractiv<sup>®</sup> tablets](#)

## **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](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).