



16 May 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Lidocaine (Xylocaine®) 10mg/dose spray sugar free

Priority: Level 2

Valid until: 30 June 2025

Issue

1. Lidocaine (Xylocaine®) 10mg/dose spray sugar free is out of stock from mid-May until late June 2025.
2. Lidocaine 5% / Phenylephrine 0.5% nasal spray remains available but cannot support an increase in demand.
3. Lidocaine 150mg/g / Cetrimide 1.5mg/g (Xylonor®) oromucosal spray sugar free remains available but cannot support an increase in demand.
4. Lidocaine 50mg/g / Cetrimide 1.5mg/g (Xylonor®) gel sugar free remains available and can support an increase in demand.
5. Unlicensed supplies can be sourced, lead times vary.

Advice and Actions

6. Health Board pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to:
 - review local stock holdings of lidocaine 10mg/dose spray and prioritise existing stock for use in areas most in need of this product (i.e. upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy/procedures); and
 - consider the appropriateness of conserving existing stock of lidocaine 10mg/dose spray in endoscopy by limiting the number of sprays administered to patients and reviewing whether it is still required in patients who have received IV sedation.
7. Where there is insufficient stock to last until the resupply date:
 - where lidocaine 10mg/dose spray was being used in the dental setting, consider if Xylonor® gel is a suitable alternative (see supporting information);
 - consider prescribing unlicensed products when required for non-dental indications. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below); and
 - agree a plan for communicating this supply issue to relevant teams within the organisation.

Additional Information

8. Lidocaine (Xylocaine®) 10mg/dose spray is non-sterile and is licensed for the prevention of pain associated with the following procedures:

- Otorhinolaryngology: anaesthesia prior to minor non-invasive procedures in the nasal cavity, pharynx and epipharynx including rhinoscopy and laryngoscopy.
- Obstetrics: as supplementary pain control for procedures not requiring aseptic technique.
- Insertion of instruments and catheters into the respiratory and digestive tract: provides surface anaesthesia for the oropharyngeal and tracheal areas to reduce reflex activity, attenuate haemodynamic response and to facilitate insertion of the catheter or the passage of instruments during endotracheal intubation, laryngoscopy, bronchoscopy, oesophagoscopy and gastroscopy.
- Dental practice: before minor dental procedures where local anaesthesia is desired.

9. Xylonor® (lidocaine 50mg/g /cetrimide 1.5mg/g) gel is intended for use by dentists and stomatologists only. It is licensed for use in adults and in children aged from 4 years for the production of topical anaesthesia in buccal cavity, especially in following procedures: anaesthesia of mucous membrane before injection, lancing of abscesses, or scaling, surface anaesthesia for extraction of mobile, deciduous or permanent teeth, and for prevention of gagging during impression taking.

Links to further information

[SmPC – Lidocaine \(Xylocaine® \)10mg/dose spray sugar free](#)

[SmPC – Lidocaine 50mg/g / Cetrimide 1.5mg/g \(Xylonor® \) gel sugar free](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

10. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed lidocaine 10mg/dose spray sugar free (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- BAP Pharma
- Chemys Limited
- Clinigen
- Durbin
- Genetech Pharmaceuticals
- Mawdsleys
- QMed Pharma
- Smartway
- Tanner Pharma
- Target Healthcare

11. MMEU has supplies of unlicensed lidocaine 5% / Phenylephrine 0.5% spray (50mL) available via Mawdsleys. Please note, this is a multi-dose bottle.

12. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS 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.

13. 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

14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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).