

18 July 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Abidec® Multivitamin drops

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: TBC, further updates on the anticipated resupply date for this [shortage](#) will be listed on the medicine supply tool, located on the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website (registration required)

Issue

1. Abidec® Multivitamin drops are out of stock until further notice.
2. Dalivit® oral drops remain available but can only support **prescription demand**.
3. Alternative multivitamin drops remain available (see Additional information section).

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians should:
 - review existing patients to determine if Abidec® Multivitamin drops are still required;
 - consider prescribing Dalivit® oral drops for young children where appropriate, ensuring that they are not intolerant to any of the excipients, and parent(s)/carers are counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required. Vitamin A content and the child/young person's age should be considered as Dalivit® use in children under 6 weeks old is off-label (see Additional information); or
 - consider prescribing or recommending alternative vitamins or food supplements where appropriate, particularly for older children and adults who require ongoing treatment.
5. Community pharmacists should:
 - reserve Dalivit® oral drops for dispensing on receipt of a prescription only; and
 - advise and inform parent(s)/carer(s) and customers of alternative food supplements that are available over the counter (see Additional information section including the Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) Table of Liquid Vitamin and Iron Supplements in Neonates and Children).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

6. Abidec® Multivitamin drops and Dalivit® oral drops are indicated for the prevention of vitamin deficiencies and for the maintenance of normal growth and health during the early years of infancy and childhood.

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

Table 1: Comparison of Abidec® Multivitamin drops and Dalivit® oral drops

		Abidec® Multivitamin drops	Dalivit® oral drops
Licensed age range		Children (from 0 to 12 years of age)	Children (from 6 weeks of age) and adults
Dose		Children (under 1 year): 0.3ml daily Children (1 to 12 years): 0.6ml daily Adults and children over 12 years: Not appropriate	Infants (6 weeks to 1 year): 0.3ml daily Older children, adults and elderly: 0.6ml daily or as directed by the physician
Vitamins per 0.6mL	Vit A	1333 units vitamin A palmitate	5000 units vitamin A palmitate
	Vit B (group)	0.4mg thiamine hydrochloride 0.8mg riboflavin 0.8mg pyridoxine hydrochloride 8mg nicotinamide	1mg thiamine hydrochloride 0.4mg riboflavin 0.5mg pyridoxine hydrochloride 5mg nicotinamide
	Vit C	40mg ascorbic acid	50mg ascorbic acid
	Vit D	400 units ergocalciferol	400 units ergocalciferol
Excipients		Sodium hydroxide Sugar (mineral water grade) Refined peanut oil DL- α -tocopherol Polysorbate 60 Purified water	Sucrose Polysorbate 80 Sodium hydroxide Sodium methyl hydroxybenzoate (E219) Deionized water
Comments		Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucraseisomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine. Contains arachis oil (peanut oil) and should not be taken by patients with peanut or soya allergy.	Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucosegalactose malabsorption or sucrase-isomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine. Contains sodium methylhydroxybenzoate (E219). May cause allergic reactions (possibly delayed).

Food Supplements

7. Food supplements are not classified as medicines and are made to different quality standards to medicines. Manufacturers are not required to comply with the manufacturing practices used for medicines.
8. Advice on food supplements should include the following points:
 - [most people do not need supplements and can get them from a balanced diet](#)
 - the NHS Inform website provides [advice on eating a balanced diet](#)
 - taking vitamins or minerals at [daily doses near to the Reference Nutrient Intake \(RNI\)](#) are unlikely to cause side effects or interactions
 - taking multiple combination supplements or high dose supplements may cause side effects or interactions
 - there may be interactions with narrow therapeutic index medicines such as warfarin
9. The NHS Inform website also provides advice on daily recommended intake of vitamins and minerals that some groups of people who are at risk of deficiency require e.g. [400micrograms folic acid during first 12 weeks of pregnancy](#), [10micrograms vitamin D daily due to low sun exposure](#).
10. Abidec[®] Multivitamin drops are not interchangeable with Abidec[®] Advanced Multivitamin Syrup or Abidec[®] Immune Support which are food supplements (see links below, including [NPPG Newsletter Spring 2021](#)).

Links to further information

- [SmPC Abidec Multivitamin Drops](#)
- [SmPC Dalivit Drops](#)
- [SPS – Understanding Complementary Medicines](#)
- [NPPG Newsletter Spring 2021- Differences between Abidec products](#)
- [The routine supplementation of vitamins and iron in the management of zinc deficiency in preterm and small for gestational age infants](#)
- [NPPG Table of Liquid Vitamin and Iron Supplements in Neonates and Children](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

11. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service 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.
12. 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

13. 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).