NHS Circular: MSAN (2025) 45

Chief Medical Officer Directorate Pharmacy and Medicines Division



27 October 2025

# **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

# Amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets

Priority: Level 2\*

Valid until: w/c 17 November 2025

#### Issue

- 1. Amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets are in limited supply until w/c 17 November 2025.
- 2. Amiodarone suspension remains available (Specials).
- 3. Unlicensed imports of amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets have been sourced (lead times vary).
- 4. Alternative antiarrhythmics agents remain available.

#### **Advice and Actions**

- 5. Clinicians should not initiate new patients on amiodarone tablets (other than those with critical arrhythmias see below) until the supply issue has resolved.
- 6. Where patients have insufficient supply to last until the resupply date, clinicians should liaise with specialists to determine whether amiodarone continues to be the most suitable therapy and discuss alternative management options, if appropriate. This should include a review of those not in sinus rhythm despite taking amiodarone for rhythm control and any patient with atrial fibrillation (AF) / atrial flutter prescribed amiodarone for rate control.
- 7. Reserve any remaining supplies of amiodarone tablets for patients in whom specialists have advised that amiodarone is the most appropriate therapy (such as in ventricular tachycardia).
- 8. Where tablets are unavailable, consider prescribing amiodarone suspension which remains available (Specials) (see Additional information section).
- 9. Advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options if the above options are not considered appropriate.
- 10. Additionally in secondary care, consider reserving any remaining supplies of amiodarone 100mg tablets for use in neonatal and paediatric patients to ensure a continuous supply. Where supplies are unavailable, discuss with specialist paediatric cardiologists, pharmacy and nursing teams for consideration of alternative treatments.

#### **Additional Information**

### Clinical Information

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

11. Amiodarone is only indicated for the treatment of severe rhythm disorders not responding to other therapies or when other treatments cannot be used. Treatment should be initiated and normally monitored only under hospital or specialist supervision. Primary care is recommended to only prescribe amiodarone if initiated in secondary care and, ideally, where there is a shared care arrangement in place. Amiodarone is not recommended for rate control in AF / atrial flutter.

## Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed medicines.

- 12. The following companies have confirmed they can manufacture amiodarone suspension (Specials) in various strengths (including 100mg/5ml and 200mg/5ml) and pack sizes (please note there may be other companies that can also manufacture supplies).
- 13. Please contact the companies directly to understand specific product availability and lead times:
  - Eaststone
  - IPS Pharma
  - Nova Laboratories
  - Rokshaw
  - Syrimed
  - Target Healthcare
- 14. The following specialist importer has confirmed they can source unlicensed amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Mawdsley's Unlicensed
- 15. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Health Board or local governance procedures. Unlicensed medicines do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any medicine must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes. Please see the links below for further information:
  - <u>The supply of unlicensed medicinal products</u>, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
  - <u>Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials</u>, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
  - Prescribing unlicensed medicines, General Medical Council (GMC)

### Links to further information

- SmPC amiodarone tablets
- BNF amiodarone
- BNF arrhythmias

### Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

16. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the 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 <a href="SPS website">SPS website</a>. 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.
- 17. 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**

18. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to <a href="mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot">PharmacyTeam@gov.scot</a> (primary care) or <a href="mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot">NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot</a> (secondary care).