

18 February 2026

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Phenobarbital 30mg and 60mg tablets**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: late March 2026**

#### **Issue**

1. Phenobarbital 30mg tablets and 60mg tablets (Teva) are out of stock until late March 2026.
2. Phenobarbital 60mg tablets (Accord) are out of stock until late February 2026.
3. Phenobarbital 30mg tablets from other manufacturers (Accord and Bristol) remain available and can support increased demand.
4. Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Teva) remain available but can only support a partial uplift in demand where alternative options are unsuitable.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. Clinicians should not initiate new patients on phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Teva) or 60mg tablets (Teva or Accord) until the supply issues resolve.
6. Where existing patients have insufficient stock to last until the resupply date clinicians should:
  - consider prescribing phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Accord or Bristol) to make up the required dose; or
  - consider prescribing phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Teva) to make up the required dose, only where patients cannot be switched to an alternative manufacturer's product; and
  - ensure the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and are counselled on the dose and correct number of tablets to take; and
  - reassure patients that they are receiving the same medicine, but from a different manufacturer, in order to maintain treatment, and advise patients to seek advice if they experience loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects after switching brand.
7. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management plans.

#### **Additional Information**

##### Clinical Information

8. Phenobarbital is a [category 1 anti-epileptic drug](#) so ideally patients should be maintained on a specific manufacturer's product. Patients should be monitored after a switch in manufacturer's product for loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects.

#### Links to further information

- [SPC Phenobarbital 30mg tablets \(Teva\)](#)
- [SPC Phenobarbital 60mg tablets \(Teva\)](#)
- [SPC Phenobarbital 30mg tablets \(Accord\)](#)
- [SPC Phenobarbital 60mg tablets \(Accord\)](#)
- [SPC Phenobarbital 30mg tablets \(Bristol Laboratories\)](#)
- [SPC Phenobarbital 15mg tablets \(Teva\)](#)
- [BNF Phenobarbital](#)
- [BNFC Phenobarbital](#)

#### **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

9. 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 [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.
10. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged 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**

11. 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).