

8 April 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Cefixime (Suprax[®]) 200mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: mid-October 2026

Issue

1. Cefixime (Suprax[®]) 200mg tablets are in limited supply until mid-October 2026.
2. Alternative broad-spectrum antibiotics remain available.
3. Unlicensed supplies may be sourced, lead times vary.

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians should:
 - consider the use of alternative broad-spectrum antibiotics in line with local and national guidance (see additional information)
 - reserve residual stocks of cefixime 200mg tablets for:
 - patients with uncomplicated ano-genital and pharyngeal gonococcal infection who are needle phobic, or where alternative oral antibiotics are not clinically appropriate
 - use as prophylaxis against diarrhoea in severely neutropenic patients being treated with irinotecan, where other broad-spectrum antibiotics are not deemed clinically appropriate, considering appropriateness of use only during the nadir period to preserve stock
 - consider the use of unlicensed cefixime 200mg tablets only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate or available; and
 - if the above options are not considered appropriate, seek advice from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Cefixime is an orally active third generation cephalosporin which has in vitro bactericidal activity against a wide variety of Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms. It is indicated for the treatment of acute infections such as those affecting the upper and lower respiratory tract, and the urinary tract. It is also used to treat uncomplicated ano-genital and pharyngeal gonococcal infections in adults who are not suitable for ceftriaxone injection due to needle phobia or

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

contraindications. Other uses include prophylaxis against diarrhoea in severely neutropenic patients treated with irinotecan.

Links to further information

- [SPC Cefixime \(Suprax®\) 200mg tablets](#)
- [BNF Cefixime](#)
- [BASHH- Gonorrhoea 2025: Updated Guideline](#)
- [NICE: Infections resources](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

6. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed cefixime 200mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical
 - Genetech Pharmaceuticals Limited
7. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board 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)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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)