

14 July 2026

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Nabilone 1mg capsules**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: end of August 2026**

#### **Issue**

1. Nabilone 1mg capsules are currently unavailable. Resupply is anticipated at the end of August 2026.
2. Nabilone 0.25mg capsules remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Unlicensed imports of nabilone 1mg capsules are available and can be sourced; lead times vary.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. Where existing patients have insufficient supply to last until the resupply date, clinicians should:
  - consider prescribing nabilone 0.25mg capsules to make up the required dose, provided the increased pill burden is acceptable to the patient; and
  - consider prescribing unlicensed nabilone 1mg capsules only where the above option is not suitable.
5. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialist teams on management options.

#### **Additional Information**

##### **Clinical Information**

6. Nabilone is indicated for the control of nausea and vomiting, caused by chemotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of cancer, in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional antiemetic treatments. It is also used as off-label for neuropathic pain in patients who have not responded to other treatments.

##### **Links to further information**

- [BNF- Nabilone](#)
- [SPC- Nabilone capsules](#)

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

## Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

7. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed nabilone 1mg capsules (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Arcadia
  - Target
8. 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.
9. 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**

10. 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.
11. 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**

12. 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).