



28 August 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Venlafaxine 75mg immediate-release tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late November 2026

Issue

1. Venlafaxine 75mg immediate release (IR) tablets are out of stock until late November 2026.
2. Venlafaxine 150mg modified release (MR) capsules remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Venlafaxine 37.5mg and 75mg MR capsules remain available and can support a partial uplift in demand.
4. Venlafaxine 75mg MR tablets remain available and can support a partial uplift in demand.
5. Venlafaxine 37.5mg IR tablets remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
6. Venlafaxine 37.5mg, 150mg, 225mg and 300mg MR tablets remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
7. Venlafaxine 225mg and 300mg MR capsules remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
8. Venlafaxine 37.5mg/5ml and 75mg/5ml oral solutions remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.

Advice and Actions

9. Prescribers should not initiate new patients on venlafaxine 75mg IR tablets until the shortage has resolved.
10. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, prescribers should:
 - ensure the shortage does not lead to abrupt cessation of venlafaxine treatment (see Additional information section);
 - consider ring-fencing supply of venlafaxine 37.5mg presentations for patients on a dose reduction programme;
 - review the patient and consider prescribing an alternative strength of venlafaxine MR tablets or capsules to make up to the nearest equivalent total daily dosage (see Additional information section) also considering individual dosage adjustments may be necessary following a switch, and ensuring the patient is:
 - not intolerant to any of the excipients, noting the capsules contain gelatin (see Additional information section);
 - counselled on the change in product, new dosing regimen/frequency to once daily, and not to chew or crush the medicine;
 - advised to report any adverse effects or change in treatment efficacy.

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

11. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

12. Venlafaxine IR tablets are licensed for the treatment and prevention of recurrence of major depressive episodes. The MR formulations are licensed for the same indications and additionally for generalised anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, and panic disorder (with or without agoraphobia).
13. Venlafaxine is associated with a higher risk of withdrawal effects (for example, gastrointestinal disturbances, headache, anxiety, dizziness) than other antidepressants. Treatment should not be stopped abruptly.
14. Patients treated with venlafaxine immediate release tablets may be switched to venlafaxine modified release tablets or capsules at the nearest equivalent daily dosage. For example, venlafaxine immediate release tablets 75mg twice daily may be switched to venlafaxine modified release capsules 150mg once daily; individual dosage adjustments may be necessary.
15. Venlafaxine MR tablets retain their shape throughout digestion, gradually releasing the active ingredient, before being excreted intact in the faeces.
16. Venlafaxine MR capsules contain spheroids, which release the active substance slowly into the digestive tract. The insoluble portion of these spheroids is eliminated and may be seen in faeces. A small cohort of patients may not wish to switch to venlafaxine MR capsules for cultural or religious reasons, as the capsules contain gelatin.

Links to further information

- [BNF: Venlafaxine](#)
- [SmPC: Venlafaxine 75mg tablets \(Dexcel\)](#)
- [SmPC: Venlafaxine 75mg tablets \(Torrent Pharma\)](#)
- [SmPC: Venlafaxine prolonged release formulations](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

17. 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.
18. 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

19. 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).