

28 August 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Moviprep® and Plenvu® oral powder sachets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: January 2027

Issue

1. Moviprep® oral powder sachets are in limited supply until January 2027.
2. Plenvu® oral powder sachets remain available, although intermittent delays in deliveries may be experienced until January 2027.
3. Alternative bowel preparations remain available, although their ability to support increased demand is limited.

Advice and Actions

4. Health Board pharmacy procurement teams should:
 - review local stock holding of all bowel preparations, including stock being held at ward locations and consider centralising stock where appropriate
 - liaise with clinical teams to consider switching to Plenvu® where appropriate; although supply is currently constrained, it is expected to be able to support the increased demand until the resupply dates stated
 - order Moviprep® and Plenvu® oral powder sachets conservatively from wholesalers and over labelling suppliers in line with projected demands and ordering restrictions in place at the wholesaler
 - work with appropriate clinical and diagnostic leads to review use of bowel preparations ensuring:
 - impacted clinical and diagnostic areas are made aware of this shortage and local mitigations;
 - Patient Group Directions (PGDs) are reviewed and updated as required;
5. Where the above options are not appropriate:
 - consider prescribing alternative bowel preparations, taking into account renal function, and other cautions/contraindications, in line with recommendations in the SmPCs, and
 - ensure the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and is provided with instructions on how to make up and take the bowel preparation (see Additional information below)

6. Where there is insufficient stock, and clinical judgement determines that a patient should remain on Moviprep® or Plenvu®, liaise with the [National Procurement Medicines Team](#) to request urgent supply.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

7. Moviprep® and Plenvu® (macrogol 3350 with anhydrous sodium sulfate, ascorbic acid, potassium chloride, sodium ascorbate and sodium chloride) are licensed for bowel cleansing before a procedure requiring a clean bowel.
8. Other bowel preparations include:
- Citramag® effervescent powder sachets
 - Citrafleet® oral powder 15.08g sachets
 - Picolax® oral powder 16.1g sachets
9. These preparations contain magnesium and are contraindicated in hypermagnesaemia. They should not be used in patients with severely reduced renal function as accumulation of magnesium in plasma may occur. A low residue diet is recommended with use of these preparations prior to the procedure.
10. Phospho-soda® 24.4g/10.8g oral solution is a bowel preparation containing sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate and disodium phosphate dodecahydrate. It is contraindicated in patients with renal impairment.

Links to further information

- [SmPC Moviprep® oral powder sachets](#)
- [SmPC Plenvu® oral powder sachets](#)
- [BNF Moviprep® and Plenvu® oral powder sachets](#)
- [BNF Citramag® effervescent powder sachets](#)
- [BNF Citrafleet® and Picolax® oral powder sachets](#)
- [BNF Phospho-soda® oral solution](#)
- [Reducing risk of harm from oral bowel cleansing solutions](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

11. 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.
12. 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.

13. Enquiries

14. 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).