NHS Circular:
MSAN (2026) 36

Chief Medical Officer Directorate
Pharmacy, Medicines & Therapeutics Division

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Medicine Supply Alert Notice

FemSeven Conti® (estradiol 50micrograms and levonorgestrel 7micrograms/24hours) transdermal patches

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: late November 2026

Issue

1. **FemSeven Conti®** (estradiol 50micrograms and levonorgestrel 7micrograms/24hours) transdermal patches are out of stock until late-November 2026.
2. The following 24-hour transdermal patches remain available and can support increased demand:
    - **Evorel Conti®** (estradiol 50micrograms/norethisterone 170micrograms)
    - **Estradot Conti® 30/95** (estradiol 30micrograms/norethisterone 95micrograms)
    - **Estradot Conti® 40/130** (estradiol 40micrograms/norethisterone130micrograms)

3. Alternative hormone replacement therapy (HRT) products remain available.

Advice and Actions

4. Prescribers should not initiate new patients on FemSeven Conti® patches until the supply issue has resolved.
5. Where patients have insufficient patches to last until the re-supply date, prescribers should:
    - consider prescribing Evorel Conti® or Estradot Conti® patches, taking into account treatment history, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and is counselled on the frequency of patch change;
    - where the above options are not suitable, consider prescribing transdermal estradiol with an alternative progestogen separately, ensuring no intolerance of the excipients, and counselling is provided on dosing, administration, and importance of taking the progestogen correctly and consistently in women with an intact uterus (see Additional Information section); and
    - advise patients who have been switched to an alternative product to report changes in symptom control or development of adverse effects.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

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

6. Femseven Conti® contains a continuous combined combination of oestrogen and progestogen for continuous use.
7. Of the other continuous combined transdermal HRT preparations available, only one contains the same amount of estradiol as Femseven Conti®, and all contain a different progestogen of varying strengths (see table).

Presentation	Estradiol	Progestogen	Dose frequency
FemSeven Conti®	50 micrograms	Levonorgestrel (7 micrograms)	Once a week.
Alternative preparations			
Evorel Conti®	50 micrograms	Norethisterone (170 micrograms)	Twice a week
Estradot Conti® 30/95 Estradot Conti® 40/130	30 micrograms 40 micrograms	Norethisterone (95 micrograms) Norethisterone (130 micrograms)	Twice a week

8. When switching from a continuous combined regimen (such as FemSeven Conti®), the new regimen can be started at any point in the cycle.
9. The British Menopause Society (BMS) 'HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives' tool suggests another option is transdermal estradiol delivery with an alternative progestogen by taking estrogen and progestogen separately. Women with an intact uterus require oestrogen **and** progestogen (for endometrial protection). If they are switched to a formulation where the progestogen is given separate to the oestrogen component, they should be counselled on the importance of taking the progestogen correctly and consistently.

Note on supply of other products

10. The supply of Estradot® (estradiol) transdermal patches is currently limited. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the Medicines Supply Tool hosted on the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website. Several UK-wide Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Estradot® (estradiol) transdermal patches are also currently in place. Please refer to PCA(P)(2026)18 for further information. Any amendments or extensions to existing SSPs are documented on the NHS Business Services Authority website using the following link: Serious shortage protocols (SSPs) | NHSBSA.
11. Evorel® (estradiol 1mg/g transdermal gel; 500microgram per actuation) has recently become available, but is not yet included in the BMS tool, see SmPC for further information.

Links to further information

- SmPC – FemSeven Conti®
- SmPC – Evorel Conti®
- SmPC – Estradot Conti®

- CKS: Menopause – Hormone replacement therapy
- British Menopause Society - HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives
- PCA(P)(2026)18 - Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® patches and Creon gastro-resistant capsules

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

12. 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.
13. 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

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).