NHS Circular:
MSAN (2026) 37

Chief Medical Officer Directorate
Pharmacy, Medicines & Therapeutics Division

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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22 October 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Cilostazol 50mg and 100mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: late November 2026

Issue

1. Cilostazol 50mg and 100mg tablets are out of stock until late November 2026.
2. Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Other licensed treatments for intermittent claudication remain available.

Advice and Actions

4. Prescribers should not initiate new patients on cilostazol 50mg and 100mg tablets until the shortage has resolved.
5. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, prescribers should:
   - review existing patients to assess treatment response, as the SmPC recommends discontinuing where an inadequate effect is observed or symptoms have not been improved after 3 months of cilostazol treatment
   - for patients who have derived benefit from cilostazol, consider appropriateness of prescribing naftidrofuryl, taking into account treatment history and contraindications (see additional information section); if prescribed, ensure the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on dosing.

6. Seek specialist advice in cases of unlicensed indications, uncertain diagnosis or if the above options are not considered appropriate.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

7. Cilostazol is indicated for the improvement of the maximal and pain-free walking distances in patients with intermittent claudication, who do not have rest pain and who do not have evidence of peripheral tissue necrosis. It is intended for second-line use, in patients in whom lifestyle modifications (including stopping smoking and [supervised] exercise programs) and other appropriate interventions have failed to sufficiently improve their intermittent claudication symptoms.

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

8. NICE guidance (CG147) does not recommend cilostazol, pentoxifylline and inositol nicotinate for treating intermittent claudication in people with peripheral arterial disease.
9. NICE guidance (TA223) only recommends naftidrofuryl as an option for treating intermittent claudication in people with peripheral arterial disease for whom vasodilator therapy is considered appropriate after taking into account other treatment options.
10. BNF notes that naftidrofuryl has shown a greater increase in maximum walking distance and pain-free walking distance than cilostazol and pentoxifylline.
11. Naftidrofuryl is contraindicated in patients with a history of hyperoxaluria or recurrent calcium-containing kidney stones.

Links to further information

- BNF: Cilostazol
- SPC: Cilostazol
- SPC: Naftidrofuryl oxalate
- SPC: Pentoxifylline
- NICE (TA223): Cilostazol, naftidrofuryl oxalate, pentoxifylline and inositol nicotinate for the treatment of intermittent claudication in people with peripheral arterial disease
- NICE (CG147): Peripheral arterial disease: diagnosis and management
- BNF: Peripheral vascular disease

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).