NHS Circular:
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Chief Medical Officer Directorate
Pharmacy, Medicines & Therapeutics Division

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml / Timolol 5mg/ml (**Fixapost®)** preservative free eye drops, 0.2ml unit dose
Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml / Timolol 5mg/ml (**Vizilatan Duo®**) eye drops preservative free, 2.5 mL
Timolol 2.5mg/ml and 5mg/ml (**Eysano®)** eye drops preservative free

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: various resupply dates apply, see below

Issue

1. Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml / Timolol [0.5%] 5mg/ml (Fixapost®) preservative free eye drops, 0.2ml unit dose, are out of stock until late November 2026.
2. Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml / Timolol [0.5%] 5mg/ml (Vizilatan Duo®) preservative free eye drops are out of stock until March 2027.
3. Timolol (Eysano®) 5mg/ml [0.5%] and 2.5mg/ml [0.25%] preservative free eye drops are out of stock until April 2027.
4. **Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml / Timolol [0.5%] 5mg/ml eye drops (containing preservative) remain available and can support increased demand.**
5. **Timolol 0.25% and 0.50% eye drops (containing preservative) remain available and can support increased demand.**
6. **Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml (Monopost®) preservative free eye drops, 0.2ml unit dose, remain available and can support increased demand.**
7. **Timolol 1mg/g [0.1%] (Tiopex®) preservative free eye gel, 0.4g unit dose, remains available and can support increased demand.**

Advice and Actions

8. Prescribers should not initiate new patients on Fixapost®, Vizilatan Duo® or Eysano® preservative free eye drops until the supply issue has resolved.
9. Where existing patients have insufficient supply to last until the re-supply date(s), prescribers should:
   - establish reason for use of a preservative free product and consider if a preservative containing equivalent product could be trialled in some patients (see supporting information);
   - if **preservative free** alternatives to Fixapost® and Vizilatan Duo® are required, consider appropriateness of prescribing latanoprost (Monopost®) with a lower strength (0.1%) timolol product (Tiopex® eye gel), ensuring that patients are counselled on dosing, how to administer Tiopex®, and on sequential administration of the components (see additional information section)

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

- if **preservative free** alternative to Eysano® is required, consider appropriateness of prescribing a lower strength (0.1%) timolol product (Tiopex® eye gel), ensuring that patients are counselled on dosing and how to administer this formulation (see additional information section)
- take into account treatment history including hypersensitivity or adverse reactions to topical eye preparations
- where patients are on extended follow-up, or are being seen through diagnostic pathways, notify the glaucoma centre responsible for the patient's care to ensure appropriate monitoring is in place and intraocular pressure control is maintained following the change in treatment.

10. Seek specialist advice on treatment options if above actions are not appropriate.

Additional Information

Clinical information

11. Fixapost® and Vizilatan Duo® contains the prostaglandin analogue, latanoprost (50micrograms/ml) and beta blocker, timolol (5mg/ml [0.5%]). They are licensed for the reduction of intraocular pressure in adults with open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. Fixapost® is presented as single dose containers and Vizilatan Duo® in a multidose eye dropper bottle, both are administered once daily, in the morning.
12. Eysano® (timolol 2.5mg/ml [0.25%] or 5mg/ml [0.5%]) is available in multidose dropper bottles and administered once or twice a day.

Preservative free alternatives

13. Latanoprost is available as 50micrograms/ml eyedrops in single-dose containers (Monopost®).
14. Timolol is available as lower strength (0.1%) eyedrops (Tiopex®) in single-dose containers.
15. Specialists consider that concentration of timolol may need to be adjusted during a shortage to ensure least disruption to eye services and to avoid a break in treatment.
16. When Monopost® and Tiopex® are used together, administer Monopost® first and allow a gap of at least 15 minutes before administering Tiopex®.
17. **Preservative-free products may be recommended for patients who:**
    - **use eye drops more than six times a day;**
    - **wear soft or hybrid contact lenses;**
    - **have a chronic eye disease;**
    - **use multiple preserved topical medications;**
    - **have a preservative allergy;**
    - **have ocular surface disease or inflammation; or**
    - **show evidence of preservative-related toxicity**.

Links to further information

- SmPC Fixapost® Preservative Free Eye Drops
- SmPC Vizilatan Duo® 50mcg/ml + 5mg/ml Eye Drops Solution

- SmPC Eysano® Eye Drops
- SmPC Monopost® (latanoprost) 50 mcg/ml eye drops, solution in single-dose container
- SmPC Tiopex (timolol) 1 mg/g, eye gel in single dose container
- SmPC Timolol 0.25% eyedrops
- SmPC Timolol 0.5% eyedrops
- BNF Latanoprost with timolol
- BNF Treatment summary - Glaucoma and ocular hypertension
- CKS Glaucoma

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

18. 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.
19. 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

20. 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).