

Memo shortage of supply

To:
From:
Date:

Re: Isoniazid tablets 50mg

Description of product affected

Isoniazid tablets are licensed for the treatment of all forms of pulmonary and extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.¹

Background

There is a shortage of this strength of isoniazid tablets until December 2019.

Alternative agents and management options

Morningside has enough stock of 100mg isoniazid tablets to bridge the gap.² The tablets are not scored, but they are uncoated.² Halving them to provide a 50mg dose would be unlicensed. There is relatively little published information on the clinical effects resulting from the administration of split tablets to patients.³ However in the absence of an alternative licensed product, this is an option in the interim. Patients will need to be provided with a tablet cutter and shown how to use it to ensure tablet is halved evenly. They should be advised not to split the entire supply of tablets at one time to be stored for later use, but to make sure that both halves are taken before splitting the next tablet.⁴ The split tablet preparation should be taken as soon as possible to reduce the likelihood of degradation and minimise any risks.³ The remaining half tablet should be stored in a dry, moisture free environment, not above 25°C. If a patient or carer is unable to halve the tablet or an accurate half tablet cannot be achieved, or halving is not considered appropriate, unlicensed liquid presentation is available from specials manufacturers.

References

1. RPH Pharmaceuticals AB. Isoniazid 50mg Tablets BP. SPC, date of revision of text 07 February 2019: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9138>
2. Morningside Healthcare Ltd. Isoniazid 100 mg Tablets. SPC, date of revision of text 12 December 2019
3. Food and Drug Administration. Best Practices for Tablet Splitting (23 Aug 2013): <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/ensuring-safe-use-medicine/best-practices-tablet-splitting>
4. Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Pharmaceutical Issues when Crushing, Opening or Splitting Oral Dosage Forms (June 2011): <https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Support%20toolkit/pharmaceuticalissuesdosageforms-%282%29.pdf>

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Document modified by:

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For all correspondence please contact:

Name of person at **base** hospital where memo is circulated (i.e. NOT the original author at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust)

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