



UPDATE:

Update to communications issued 30 September, 18 November, 19 December 2019 and 23 January 2020

Medicine Supply Notification

Tuberculosis (TB) oral agents

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 10 February 2020

Summary

- Since August 2019 a number of oral TB agents have been impacted by supply issues.
- Please see the table in the 'Supporting Information' section for the latest stock positions, suggested management plans and anticipated dates for re-supply.

Actions Required

Pharmacy procurement, clinical teams (including prescribers, TB nurses and clinicians) and any outsourced partners should work together to ensure that:

- stock holding of TB agents is reviewed regularly;
- alternatives, as advised in the summary table, are ordered for the products that are in short supply;
- prescriptions are amended in cases where the usual/preferred product is unavailable so that treatment is not delayed or interrupted;
- Trusts do not implement management plans that are not in line with the advice given within this document as that may precipitate further out of stock periods;
- patients are appropriately counselled about changes to their usual/expected medication; and
- if products that have not been flagged as out of stock cannot be obtained, this is escalated to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist (see below for contact details).

Supporting Information

Product	Supplier	Current stock position	Anticipated re-supply date	Suggested management plan
Rifampicin 150mg capsules	Sanofi	In stock		Some localised out of stocks of Sanofi product as depots await replenishment. Purchase off contract if required to ensure continuity of care for patients.
	Mylan	In stock		
Rifampicin 300mg capsules	Sanofi	In stock		n/a
	Sandoz	In stock		
	Mylan	In stock		
	DrugsRUs	In stock		
Rifampicin 100mg/5ml syrup	Sanofi	In stock		n/a
Ethambutol 100mg tablets	Morningside	In stock		There may be localised out of stocks of Morningside product as the network is replenished and of T&R product until their next re-supply date. Purchase off contract if required to ensure continuity of care for patients.
	Thornton & Ross	Low stock	w/c 24/02/20	
	Kent	Out of stock	w/c 02/03/20	
	Intrapharm	Low stock	Late February	
Ethambutol 400mg tablets	Kent	Out of stock	w/c 02/03/20	There may be localised out of stocks of T&R product as the network is replenished. Purchase off contract if required to ensure continuity of care for patients.
	Thornton & Ross	Out of stock	w/c 10/02/20	
	Intrapharm	Out of stock	Late February	
	Morningside	In stock		
Pyrazinamide 500mg tablets	Thornton & Ross	In stock		Purchase off contract if required to ensure continuity of care for patients.
	Macleod's	Out of stock	w/c 10/02/20	
	Morningside	In stock		
Isoniazid 50mg tablets	RPH Pharmaceuticals	Out of stock	Mid-February 2020	Isoniazid 100mg tablets are available from Morningside: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/short-age-of-isoniazid-tablets-50mg/ SPS memo on halving 100mg tablets. Unlicensed specially manufactured liquid is available from Ennogen and Rosemont.
Isoniazid 100mg tablets	Morningside	In stock		n/a
Rifinah® 150 tablets (rifampicin 150mg/isoniazid 100mg)	Sanofi	In stock		n/a
Rifinah® 300 tablets (rifampicin 300mg/isoniazid 150mg)	Sanofi	In stock		Purchase off contract if required to ensure continuity of care for patients.
	DrugsRUs	Limited stock	Late February	

Rifater® tablets (rifampicin 120mg/pyrazinamide 300mg/isoniazid 50mg)	Sanofi	Out of stock	w/c 24/02/20	Prescribe/dispense as individual ingredients or place orders for imports. Importer companies have indicated that unlicensed imports can be sourced, lead times vary. Do not use Rifinah products as these presentations cannot meet an increase in demand.
	DrugsRUs (Parallel Import)	Out of stock	TBC	
Voractiv® tablets	Thornton & Ross	Out of stock	March 2020	Prescribe/dispense as individual ingredients or place orders for imports. Importer companies have indicated that unlicensed imports can be sourced, lead times vary. Do not use Rifinah products as these presentations cannot meet an increase in demand.
Cycloserine 250mg capsules	King Pharmaceuticals	Out of stock	TBC	Place orders for imports. Importer companies have indicated that unlicensed imports can be sourced, lead times vary.

- Please note that the information outlined above is correct on day of publication but may be subject to change.
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC);
 - [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA); and
 - [Professional guidance for the procurement and supply of specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist, who will escalate to national teams if required.

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