



UPDATE:

Update to communications issued 25 September 2020

Material updates in bold

Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/051-U

Zonisamide capsules various strengths (Glenmark and Teva)

Tier 2– Medium impact*

Date of issue: 28/10/2020

Summary

Due to changes in the availability of zonisamide capsules from Teva UK and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, we have provided updated information within this communication

Please see a supply overview for zonisamide capsules below:

Product	Supplier	Current Stock Position	Anticipated resupply date
Zonisamide 25 mg capsules	Eisai	In stock	N/A
	Teva	Out of stock	Mid-February 2021
	Glenmark	In stock	N/A
Zonisamide 50mg capsules	Eisai	In stock	N/A
	Teva	Out of stock	Mid-February 2021
	Glenmark	In stock	N/A
Zonisamide 100mg capsules	Eisai	In stock	N/A
	Teva	Out of stock	Early December 2020
	Glenmark	Out of stock	Mid-November 2020

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies **of any strength of zonisamide capsules (Teva or Glenmark)** to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- work with local pharmacy teams to understand the availability of alternative manufacturer's zonisamide capsules and prescribe accordingly;
- inform patients of the change in manufacturer's product and advise them to report any changes in seizure frequency to their GP; and
- if further advice is needed, or complications arise advice should be sought from secondary care specialists.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Supporting information

Zonisamide is a category 2 anti-epileptic drug as designated by the MHRA. For these drugs the need for continued supply of a particular manufacturer's product should be based on clinical judgement and consultation with the patient and/or carer considering factors such as seizure frequency and treatment history.

As a result of this shortage patients may have to switch to an alternative manufacturer's zonisamide capsules. Clinicians advise that prescribers should closely monitor patients for any changes in seizure frequency and/or breakthrough seizures when they are switched over to alternative manufacturer's zonisamide capsules.

Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on alternative preparations:

- [Zonisamide BNF](#)
- [Zonisamide capsules SmPC](#)
- [The use of generic antiepileptics in patients with epilepsy](#)

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.