

Prescribing Hints & Tips

April 2025

FENTANYL (DUROGESIC® DTRANS®) 12 MICROGRAMS/HOUR, 25 MICROGRAMS/HOUR, 50 MICROGRAMS/HOUR, 75 MICROGRAMS/HOUR, 100 MICROGRAMS/HOUR PATCHES: SUPPLY ISSUE

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have issued a [Medicine Supply Notification](#) for Fentanyl (Durogesic® DTrans®) 12micrograms/hour, 25micrograms/hour, 50micrograms/hour, 75micrograms/hour, and 100micrograms/hour patches. All strengths are expected to be out of stock until December 2025.

Alternative brands of fentanyl matrix patches (Fencino®, Matrifen®, Mezolar®, Opiodur®, Yemex®) remain available and can support increased demand. Please be reminded that our local preferred brand is Opiodur®.

Practices are encouraged to identify any affected patients and switch them to an **alternative matrix patch** (not reservoir, due to different release rate).

GALANTAMINE 8MG, 16MG AND 24MG MODIFIED RELEASE CAPSULES MEDICINES SUPPLY NOTIFICATION

The Department of Health and Social Care have issued a [Medicine Supply Notification](#) regarding galantamine 8mg, 16mg and 24mg modified release capsules:

- Galantamine 8mg, 16mg and 24mg tablets were discontinued and are no longer available.
- Galantamine 20mg/5ml oral solution sugar free remains available and can support full increased demand.
- Alternative solid dosage forms of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors (donepezil tablets and rivastigmine capsules) remain available.

For information on how to switch patients from MR capsules to the liquid formulation, please see the notification (once daily MR caps will need to be switched to twice daily liquid). Please consider if the patient is able to manage a liquid preparation and counsel them on the change to twice daily dosing.

TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 10MG/ML (ADCORTYL® AMPOULES) AND 40MG/ML (KENALOG® VIALS) SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION DISCONTINUED

The Department of Health and Social Care have issued a [Medicine Supply Notification](#) regarding triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/ml (Adcortyl® ampoules) and 40mg/ml (Kenalog® vials). Both are being discontinued with stock expected to be exhausted by early June 2025. Alternatives are available, please see the notification for details.

REMINDER: PROVISION OF SAFETY NEEDLES AND LANCETS

Safety needles and lancets are designed to protect health care professionals and paid carers from sharps injuries when giving insulin injections and testing blood glucose. **As such, it is the employer's responsibility to provide these safety devices for their staff.** Safety needles and lancets must not be prescribed on FP10 for this purpose.

Safety pen needles and safety lancet devices can be **prescribed** in the following exceptional circumstances:

- Patients whose insulin is administered by a non-professional healthcare worker, e.g. carer AND where the patient is known to have a blood born virus e.g. seropositive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
- Children injecting at school.
- Prisoners self-injecting.

Practices are asked to please remove safety devices from the repeat prescription of patients who do not meet the above criteria. Community nursing teams in both city and county place-based partnerships are aware of their responsibility to provide this equipment and any further requests to prescribe should be declined.

NEW GUIDELINE: IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

A new local prescribing guideline for the management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) has been developed and is available here: [management-of-irritable-bowel-syndrome.pdf](#). This has been developed in response to the local need captured in the local survey to support Primary Care clinicians and to help to guide the treatment decision in management of IBS.

CLENIL® TO SOPROBEC®: DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT SWITCHING AVAILABLE

Documents to support practices in switching patients from Clenil® MDI inhaler to Soprobec® MDI inhaler are now available on the [medicines optimisation website](#).

APC AND INTERFACE UPDATE

The latest updates from APC can be found on their website [here](#), including the most recent [APC Bulletin](#).

MAILING LIST

If you wish to be added or removed from the Prescribing Hints and Tips mailing list, please email e.moncrieff@nhs.net