

20th September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Please be aware that there is an important drug supply issue affecting:

Provera (medroxyprogesterone acetate) 100mg tablets

- Pfizer, the sole supplier of Provera tablets, have informed the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that due to manufacturing delays, they are out of stock of the 100mg tablets until w/e 8th November 2019.
- Provera 200mg and 400mg tablets remain available.

Action required by recipients:

- For patients who do not have sufficient supplies of Provera 100mg tablets for the duration of the expected out of stock period, **clinicians should consider prescribing an unlicensed preparation** of medroxyprogesterone tablets as soon as possible.
 - DHSC have contacted specialist importer companies who have advised that unlicensed imports can be sourced from abroad.
 - Importers who have currently confirmed they can source these lines, include:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Medroxyprogesterone 100mg tablets | Mawdsley's |
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- Clinicians will need to work with local pharmacies to understand more about the specific unlicensed products that can be sourced and associated lead times.
- 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:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/prescribing-and-managing-medicines-and-devices/prescribing-unlicensed-medicines>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/373505/The_supply_of_unlicensed_medicinal_products_specials_.pdf

<https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Support/toolkit/specials-professional-guidance.pdf>

- In order for pharmacies to dispense an unlicensed drug, FP10 prescriptions must indicate that an unlicensed special is required/prescribed by the GP. This could include the GP annotating the prescription with the following wording: "special order".

- To minimise the disruption this may cause locally in terms of patients seeking GP appointments, GP practices may want to consider using local IT systems to identify patients who may be impacted by this shortage and to manage these patients by prescribing unlicensed supplies or referring to secondary care specialists in good time, where appropriate.
- For patients **in whom unlicensed supplies are not considered appropriate** a referral to secondary care cancer specialists will be required for consideration of alternative options, as included in the UKMI memo below:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-provera-medroxyprogesterone-acetate-100mg-tablets/>

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

We hope this information is helpful and thank you for your assistance with this issue.

Yours sincerely,

DHSC Medicines Supply Team