



Medicine Supply Notification

Pethidine 50mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 14/11/2019

Summary

- Teva and Martindale are out of stock of pethidine 50mg tablets There are no alternative suppliers.
- Teva anticipate resupply week commencing 2nd December 2019 and Martindale in mid-December 2019.
- Unlicensed pethidine 50mg capsules are available from Martindale.

Actions Required

- Patients with insufficient supplies of pethidine 50mg tablets should be reviewed by a clinician to assess ongoing need.
- Where necessary, clinicians may wish to obtain specialist advice, from local pain teams or substance misuse teams, on alternative agents/or weaning.
- For patients who require a supply of pethidine 50mg tablets, prescribers may consider prescribing the unlicensed 50mg capsules (see supporting information below).

Supporting Information

- Unlicensed pethidine 50mg capsules, can be ordered from Martindale using the following PIP code: P034790
- 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)
 - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)
- When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done by annotating the prescription with the following wording: “**special order**”.

Enquiries

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

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link: [A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages](#).