



Medicine Supply Notification

Reference: MSN/2019/009

Synphase® (ethinylestradiol and norethisterone) tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 14/11/2019

Summary

- Synphase® tablets are out of stock until 20 December 2019.
- Other brands of phasic oral contraceptive tablets remain available during this period.

Actions Required

- For patients without sufficient supplies of Synphase® tablets to last until the resolution date, prescribers may:
 - consider prescribing an alternative phasic oral contraceptive (listed below);
 - Logynon® tablets
 - Logynon ED® tablets
 - TriRegol® tablets
 - consider prescribing a non-phasic oral contraceptive; or
 - consider prescribing an unlicensed import of Synphase® tablets (see supporting information below).
- Clinicians (*both prescribing and dispensing*) should counsel patients regarding the different brand and dosing regimen prescribed, where appropriate.

Supporting Information

- For further information on the constituents of phasic oral contraceptives, see the table below:

Oral Contraceptive	Supplier	Number of tablets	Ethinylestradiol content (micrograms)	Levonorgestrol content (micrograms)	Norethisterone content (micrograms)
Synphase®	Pfizer	7	35		500
		9	35		1000
		5	35		500
Logynon®/Logynon ED®*	Bayer	6	30	50	
		5	40	75	
		10	30	125	
TriRegol®	Consilient	6	30	50	
		5	40	75	
		10	30	125	

*Logynon ED® also contains 7 placebo tablets to allow continuous daily dosing

- Find the SPCs for the phasic oral contraceptives below:
 - Logynon® tablets <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1127/smpc>
 - Logynon ED® tablets <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1128/smpc>

- TriRegol® tablets <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4215>
- 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