Dear Colleagues,

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

‘Salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup’

- DHSC have been made aware that both suppliers (GSK and Pinewood) are currently out of stock of Salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup.
- GSK, the main supplier of salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup (Ventolin) have advised a resupply date of early August 2019.
- Pinewood are long term out of stock due to manufacturing issues and are currently unable to advise a resupply date.
- DHSC have contacted specialist importer companies, who have advised that unlicensed imports can be sourced from abroad.
- UK Medicine Information have also published guidance on other alternative options including the use of salbutamol tablets: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-salbutamol-syrup-2mg-5ml/

Local Action required:

1. Please ensure that information about this supply issues is cascaded to all relevant networks.
2. For patients who do not have sufficient supplies to last until early August, clinicians should consider prescribing alternative options during this time including unlicensed supplies of Salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup. Clinicians will need to work with local pharmacies to understand more about the specific unlicensed products that can be sourced.
3. Clinicians should refer to the UKMI memo for further advice if an unlicensed supply of Salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup is considered unsuitable.

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

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

Yours sincerely