

Community Pharmacy Bulletin



17 September 2021



NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

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Coming Up

	September	October	November
Week 1		Supplementary Application for New Year's Eve (31 December 2021) deadline 3 October 2021 ----- Core and Supplementary Applications for New Year's Day (1 January 2022) deadline 2 October 2021	
Week 2		PSNC Webinar on changes to advanced payments 5 October 7.30pm	
Week 3	PQS 2021-2022 Webinar 14 September 2021 7.30pm		
Week 4	Supplementary Application for Christmas Eve (24 December 2021) deadline 25 September 2021 ----- Core and Supplementary Applications for Boxing Day (26 December) deadline 27 September 2021		
Week 5			

Headlines from the Week

NHS England

- None

NHS England South West Regional Team

- None

PSNC Bulletin

- [Pharmacy Access Scheme: Changes from January 2022](#)
- [CPPE announces culturally competent learning campaign](#)
- Recent PSNC Briefings published in the last week
 - [PEPS cashflow](#)
 - [Older Smartcards and software reaching end-of life](#)
 - [Pharmacy Quality Scheme \(PQS\) – Asthma referrals](#)
 - [Briefing for GP teams: 2021/22 changes to NHS community pharmacy contract](#)
- [Additional funding for off-site vaccine provision](#)
- [September 2021 Price Concessions](#)

NHS CPCS IT: Guide for Community Pharmacy Contractors Published

(taken from the Primary Care Bulletin – 16 September 2021 (Issue 152))

The Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) ‘provider pays’ model will come into effect on 1 April 2022, when the responsibility for the cost of CPCS IT solutions transfers to community pharmacy contractors.

Contractors are encouraged to act promptly to sign up to one of four assured CPCS IT providers from mid-November 2021:

- [Cegedim](#)
- [PharmOutcomes](#)
- [Positive Solutions](#)
- [Sonar Informatics](#)

A [guide for contractors](#) is available, setting out options and actions required in the move to ‘provider pays’.

A CPCS IT Buyer’s Guide will be published shortly to aid contractors to choose and purchase a CPCS IT solution. A [supporting webinar](#) will take place on Thursday, 14 October 2021 from 7pm – 8:30pm, please register to attend.

NHS 111 and Directory of Service (DOS)

Pharmacies should not be contacting NHS111 to ask them to close their pharmacy service pages on the DoS.

For the vast majority of services, NHS111 has no authority to sanction any unexpected closures, and will not have the correct details to pass onto DoS.



The quickest way to close your service on the DoS is for the pharmacy to have a RAG account set up so they can do it themselves.

Medicine Supply Notification (MSN)

Please find attached Medicine Supply Notifications for:

- A Tier 2 medicine supply notification for Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution

The table below provides a summary of the attached MSN

Medicine	Out of stock until	Alternatives
Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution	Long term supply issues expected until further notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metformin tablets • Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution • Unlicensed products from Specials manufacturers have been sourced. <p>Please see MSN for further details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

There have also been changes to the resupply dates of the medicines listed below. These communications were previously circulated via the NHSE&I commissioning routes.

Original MSN reference	Date of original MSN/SDA	Supply issue	Resupply date originally communicated	Updated resupply date as of w/c 13 September 2021
MSN/2021/030	14/06/2021	Dalacin (clindamycin) 2% vaginal cream	w/c 6th September 2021	w/c 20 th September 2021
SDA/2021/009	02/08/2021	Glipizide (Minidiab) 5mg tablets	Mid-October 2021	w/c 1st November 2021

Please note that supply issues that have been categorised as tier 1 or 2, DHSC and the MSRG have requested that the NHSE&I commissioning routes are used to reach community pharmacy and GP Practices. More serious supply issues are communicated via the Central Alerting System for action.

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

Useful Information

INFORMATION 

NHS England & Improvement – South West Region Community Pharmacy Contract Management Team contact information

Team Member	Telephone	Address
Jenny Collins	07979 308749	South West Region Postal Addresses NHS England and Improvement – South West
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Les Riggs	07730 371074	Peninsula House Kingsmill Road
Mary Cotton	07920 288191	Tamar View Industrial Estate Saltash, PL12 6LE
Michele Toy	07568 431890	Or
Sarah Lillington	07920 834445	NHS England and Improvement – South West Sanger House, 5220 Valiant Court
Sharon Hodges	07702 411295	Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth Gloucester, GL3 4FE
Tracey Howes	07730 380479	Or
Chris Yengel	07769 963478	NHS England and Improvement – South West Jenner House, Avon Way
Kath Hughes	07730 374739	Langley Park Chippenham, SN15 1GG
Lesley St Leger	07730 381871	<i>Please note all our offices are currently closed, please do not send post and use email wherever possible</i>
William Anderson	07783 821721	Email: england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

NHS England & NHS Improvement Regional Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer

Name	Telephone number	Main contact details
Jon Hayhurst	07718130490	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting incidents and concerns www.cdreporting.co.uk Advice and support Authorised witnesses for destruction england.southwestcontrolledrugs@nhs.net

Webpages

Please see our websites for more information and any blank templates, forms and documents:

[Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, Devon, Bristol, Dorset, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire](#)

[BaNES, Gloucestershire, Swindon or Wiltshire](#)

[Interpretation and Translation Services](#)



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/045

Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 13/09/2021

Summary

- Advanz Pharma have discontinued metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution due to further testing requirements necessitated by the potential presence of N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDMA) impurities.
- Rosemont Pharmaceuticals have recalled one batch of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution due to the presence of NDMA impurities and are therefore out of stock due to further testing requirements.
- Limited supplies of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution are expected to be made available week commencing 4th Oct 2021, however, this is unable to support full demand.
- Long term supply issues of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution are expected.
- Metformin 850mg/5ml and 1000mg/5ml oral solutions remain available but cannot support an increased demand.
- Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution sugar free is available but cannot fully support an uplift in potential demand.
- Supplies of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution specials can be sourced. However, the presence of NDMA within Specials is unknown. Therefore, it is imperative that Specials are only prescribed where all other options have been exhausted.

Actions Required

All clinicians in primary and secondary care who prescribe metformin 500mg in 5ml oral solution should consider:

- reviewing if patients can swallow solid dosage forms and switching to metformin tablets, where appropriate;
- working with local pharmacy teams to understand the availability of metformin 500mg powder for oral solution and where appropriate issue a prescription to make up the required dose, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required to reconstitute the powder (see supporting information below);
- prioritising remaining oral solution for patients with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties (see supporting information below);
- assessing patient's ability to crush metformin tablets and mix with water, and recommending to do so, if appropriate (see supporting information below);
- prescribing unlicensed products from Specials manufacturers, in the event of above options being exhausted and where metformin is still required.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Please refer to the following links for further information on the risks of nitrosamine impurities:

- [Batch of metformin oral solution recalled by MHRA due to nitrosamine impurity \(GOV.UK\)](#)
- [Nitrosamines EMEA-H-A5\(3\)-1490 - Assessment Report \(europa.eu\)](#)

Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on alternative preparations:

- [Metformin BNF](#)
- [Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution SmPC](#)
- [Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution sugar free \(Morningside\) SmPC](#)

Administration via enteral feeding tubes

- Resources on administration of medication to patients with enteral feeding tubes states that metformin tablets do not disperse well in water, however, they can be crushed and mixed with water to form a fine suspension, which flushes easily via an 8Fr NG tube.
- There is currently no data available on the use of Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution sugar free sachets (Morningside) in enteral tubes, however, the formulation is based on Glucophage (metformin) 500 mg powder for oral solution in sachets, with similar excipients. Glucophage powder is reported to dissolve completely in 20 mL of water to give a cloudy solution, with a pH of 4.5, which flushes easily via an 8Fr feeding tube without blockage.

Guidance on ordering and prescribing Specials

- Specials manufacturers are not required to monitor NMDA levels when releasing unlicensed supplies, therefore Specials should only be used where all other options have been considered but are unsuitable and where metformin is still required. It is the prescriber's responsibility to ensure that the benefits from using the Specials outweighs the risks of potential exposure to NMDA (see clinical information above).
- The following manufacturers have confirmed they can source unlicensed metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Ascot Labs
 - Eaststone Specials
 - Nova Laboratories
 - Quantam Pharmaceuticals
 - Target Healthcare
- 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:
 - [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
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
- When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:
 - Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
 - metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution (special order)
 - Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: **“special order”**.

Enquiries

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