



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ  
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification:

Minims® Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose

Minims® Proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose

Tier 3 – high impact\*

[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

## Summary

- Minims® Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose and Minims® Proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose are in limited supply until early October 2023.
- Where stock is unavailable, unlicensed supplies of proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative: benzalkonium chloride) may be sourced, lead times vary.
- Minims® Tetracaine Hydrochloride 0.5% w/v and 1% w/v eye drop solution remain available but can only cover normal demand.

## Actions Required

Clinicians/prescribers should:

- reserve stock of Minims® oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% and Minims proxymetacaine 0.5% for urgent procedures, patients who require preservative-free formulations, and for children;
- where there are insufficient stocks available consider prescribing unlicensed proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative, benzalkonium chloride) ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients. Clinicians should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Supporting Information below).



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## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Minims® Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% and Minims® Proxymetacaine 0.5% are both used as ocular anaesthetics.

Imports of proxymetacaine hydrochloride 0.5% eye drop solution have been sourced. This presentation contains the preservative benzalkonium chloride, which may cause hypersensitivity reactions.

### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- Target Healthcare have confirmed they can source unlicensed proxymetacaine hydrochloride 0.5% eye drops solution (10 x 10ml) (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies).
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance from regulators 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)

### Links

[SmPC - Minims Oxybuprocaine Hydrochloride 0.4% w/v](#)

[SmPC - Minims Proxymetacaine Hydrochloride 0.5% w/v, Eye drops solution](#)