



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® Povidone Iodine 5% w/v Eye Drops, Solution**  
Tier 3 – high impact\*

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

## Summary

- Minims® Povidone Iodine 5% w/v eye drops, solution are in limited supply until early October 2023.
- A number of Specials manufacturers are able to produce unlicensed povidone iodine 5% eye drops.
- Unlicensed imports of povidone iodine 5% ophthalmic solution may be sourced, lead times vary.
- Videne® (povidone iodine) antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution is available and can be diluted to 5%.

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## Actions Required

Clinicians/prescribers should:

- reserve stock of Minims® Povidone Iodine 5% for urgent procedures;
- where there are insufficient stocks available consider purchasing povidone iodine 5% eye drops or imports of povidone iodine 5% ophthalmic solution from a Specials Manufacturer. To notes a check should be made to ensure 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);
- if the above options are unavailable or unsuitable, consider diluting Videne® (povidone iodine) antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution to produce a 5% solution for application to the eye, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (see Supporting Information below); and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

## Supporting information

### Product licence

Minims® Povidone Iodine 5% w/v eye drops solution is licensed for cutaneous peri-ocular and conjunctival antiseptics prior to ocular surgery and/or intravitreal injection to support post-procedural infection control.

### Diluting Videne® (povidone iodine) antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution

This product is licensed for once-only use in the disinfection of intact external skin or as a mucosal antiseptic, for example prior to surgery, biopsies, injections, punctures, blood-taking and bladder catheterisations. The patient information leaflet (PIL) includes instructions for preparing a 5% solution for eye irrigation stating that the solution should be diluted 1:2. **For use as an eye irrigation, this means diluting 1 part povidone iodine 10% solution with 1 part diluent\* to achieve a 5% solution.** A phosphate buffered solution\* or balanced salts Solution\* are the recommended diluents. A diluted solution must be freshly prepared at the point of use and used immediately.



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## Specials

Specials of povidone iodine 5% eye drops are available to purchase in 5ml, 10ml and 50ml quantities. These may be used as a multidose product to patients on a single surgical list during this period of shortage. It is essential that that fresh droppers are used for each patient to mitigate against the risk of any cross contamination.

## Guidance on ordering and prescribing Specials

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source Specials or imports of povidone iodine 5% (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Mandeville Medicines
  - Orifarm
  - Tayside
- 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 – Povidone iodine 5% w/v eye drops, solution](#)

[SmPC – Videne® antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution](#)

[PIL - Videne® antiseptic solution 10% w/w cutaneous solution](#)