



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

23rd August 2023

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification: Estradiol (Estradot®) 25micrograms/24 hours, 37.5micrograms/24 hours and 100micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches

Tier 2 – medium impact*

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

Summary

- Estradiol (Estradot®) 25micrograms/24hours, 37.5micrograms/24hours, 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches will be out of stock until late September 2023.
- Alternative brands of estradiol patches (Evorel® and Estraderm MX®) are available and can support a full uplift in demand.
- A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for Estradiol (Estradot®) 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches was issued on 21/08/2023.

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- pharmacists must ensure that the patient's prescriber and/or GP practice is notified when supplying a patient in accordance with this SSP; and
- patients should be counselled regarding the switch in brand at the point of supply.
- If the above options are not appropriate or patients have previously had intolerances to Evorel® or Estraderm MX® patches, refer the patient to the prescriber/specialist to establish if ongoing treatment is required and considering prescribing an alternative available hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

- clinicians should consider prescribing Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25micrograms/24hours patches, advising patients to cut a patch in half (off-label use) and apply one and a half patches to provide a 37.5micrograms/24hours dose. The remaining half can be put back into the packet for the next dose. Ensure the patient is able to carry out this manipulation (see Supporting Information);
- clearly annotate the prescription to emphasise the dose i.e. one and a half patches of the Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 25micrograms/24hours are to be applied and ensure the patient understands dosing and administration; and
- patients should be counselled on the change in brand and how to deliver 37.5microgram dose at the point of supply.

If the above options are not appropriate or patients have previously had intolerances to Evorel® or Estraderm MX® patches, refer the patient to their specialist where applicable, establish if ongoing treatment is required and switch to an alternative available hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

Estradiol (Estradot®) 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches:

- community pharmacists may supply an equivalent strength of Evorel® or Estraderm MX® 100micrograms/24hours transdermal patches in accordance with the SSP for eligible patients (see Supporting information below);

Actions Required

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Please see the links for further information:

- [SmPC Estradot® patches](#)



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- [SmPC Evorel® patches](#)
- [SmPC Estraderm MX® patches](#)
- [British Menopause Society – HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives](#)
- [British Society for Paediatric endocrinology and Diabetes patient information leaflet - guidance on cutting Evorel® and Estraderm MX® patches](#)
- [SSP Estradiol \(Estradot®\) 100microgram/24hours transdermal patches](#)
- [CKS: Menopause- Hormone replacement therapy](#)

Further updates:

Updates on HRT stock availability are on the Medicine Supply Tool and designated '[Prescribing available HRT products](#)' page on the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website.