



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

21st September 2023

Dear colleague

**Medicine Supply Notification: Hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches**

**Tier 2 – medium impact\***

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

### Summary

- Hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches are in limited supply until w/c 1st January 2024.
- Alternative formulations of hyoscine hydrobromide remain available and will be able to support an increase in demand.
- Glycopyrronium tablets and liquid remain available and will be able to support an increase in demand.
- Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of hyoscine hydrobromide patches may be sourced, lead times vary (see Supporting information).

### Actions Required

Healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care should not initiate any new patients on hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches.

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
- prioritise any remaining stock of Scopoderm® patches for patients who have no oral access;
- consider switching patients who have oral access to an alternative formulation of hyoscine hydrobromide; or if not appropriate, a glycopyrronium bromide preparation (see Supporting Information);



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- consider prescribing unlicensed hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches if alternative options are not suitable, working with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames, as lead times may vary (see Supporting Information below), and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

### Supporting Information

#### **Clinical Information**

Hyoscine hydrobromide patches are licensed for the prevention of travel sickness symptoms e.g., nausea, vomiting and vertigo and used off-label for the management of hypersalivation and drying up respiratory secretions.

#### **Alternative Treatment Options**

##### Other hyoscine hydrobromide formulations for the management of hypersalivation/ respiratory secretions

Hyoscine hydrobromide (Kwells®) 150microgram and 300microgram tablets are used off label in this setting, with dosing titrated up based on response and tolerability. They are taken orally, sucked or chewed. In patients with swallowing difficulty, they can also be administered by sublingual or buccal route (off label route of administration).

##### Glycopyrronium bromide products

These are licensed for the symptomatic treatment of severe sialorrhoea (chronic pathological drooling/hypersalivation) in children and adolescents aged 3 years and older with chronic neurological disorders. Use in adults is off-label. They are an option if there is oral access/ patient can swallow. Preparations include:

- Glycopyrronium bromide 1mg and 2mg tablets
- Glycopyrronium bromide 1mg/5ml oral solution
- Glycopyrronium bromide (Sialanar) 2mg/5ml oral solution

As there are two separate glycopyrronium liquid products with different strengths, prescribing should clearly indicate the strength and dose to reduce the risk of selection and dosing error.

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### Prevention of travel (motion) sickness

NHSE guidance recommends that a prescription for treatment for motion sickness will not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care. Alternative treatment options available OTC include:

- Hyoscine hydrobromide (Kwells®) 150 and 300microgram tablets
- Promethazine teoclate 25mg tablets
- Promethazine hydrochloride 10mg and 25mg tablets
- Promethazine hydrochloride 5mg/5ml oral solution
- Cinnarizine 15mg tablets

### **Links to further information:**

• [BNF hyoscine hydrobromide](#)

• [BNFc hyoscine hydrobromide](#)

• [SmPC Scopoderm 1.5mg patches](#)

• [SmPC: Kwells](#)

• [BNFc: glycopyrronium bromide](#)

• [SmPC glycopyrronium tablets](#)

• [SmPC glycopyrronium liquid](#)

• [SmPC glycopyrronium liquid \(Sialanar\)](#)

• CKS: hypersalivation

• [BNF: Antimuscarinic drugs](#)

• CKS: Palliative care - secretions: Noisy respiratory secretions at the end of life

• Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines: Alternatives to Regular Medication Normally Given via a Syringe Pump When this is Not Available

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports



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The following specialist importers have confirmed that they can source unlicensed hyoscine hydrobromide 1.5mg patches (please note there may be other companies who can source supplies):

- Alium Medical Limited
- Oripfarm UK Limited
- Q MED

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:

- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC);
- [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA); and
- [Professional guidance for the procurement and supply of specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK prescribers must indicate on the HS21 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done by annotating the prescription with the following wording: “**special order**”