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## **Medicine Supply Notification: Disulfiram 200mg tablets**

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 16/08/2023

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

### Summary

- Disulfiram 200mg tablets are out of stock until late August 2023.
- Unlicensed supplies of disulfiram 200mg tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

### Actions Required

Until the shortage resolves, clinicians should:

- not start new patients on disulfiram 200mg tablets;
- for existing patients, consider reducing the dose of stable patients who take disulfiram 200mg tablets once daily to three times a week until the resupply date;
- where the above is not appropriate, check if patient has sufficient stock until the resupply date and if not, consider prescribing one months' supply of unlicensed disulfiram 200mg tablets.

### Supporting information

#### Clinical Information

Disulfiram is indicated as an adjuvant in the treatment of carefully selected and co-operative patients with alcohol dependency. Its use must be accompanied by appropriate supportive treatment.

Disulfiram is used in patients who have a goal of abstinence but for whom acamprosate and oral naltrexone are not suitable, or in patients who prefer disulfiram and understand the relative risks of taking the drug.

Information produced by DHSC and disseminated by HSCB Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. For most up-to-date information, visit <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3065.htm>

Disulfiram has a different mechanism of action as well as having a different psychological impact on patients compared to acamprosate and naltrexone, which are often tried before disulfiram, and therefore acamprosate and naltrexone may not be an option for existing patients. Unlicensed disulfiram 200mg tablets may be prescribed in existing patients where alternative treatments are unsuitable.

Patients must not be switched to unlicensed depot disulfiram as the evidence base for its efficacy is poor and it has significant risks associated with it.

#### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed disulfiram 200mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Mawdsleys
  - 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)

Please see the following links for further information:

- SmPC Disulfiram 200mg tablets [Disulfiram 200 mg tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- SmPC Acamprosate 333mg gastro-resistant tablets [Search Results - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- SmPC Naltrexone hydrochloride 50mg film-coated tablets [Search Results - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- BNF Disulfiram [Disulfiram | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)
- NICE guidance: alcohol-use disorders [Recommendations | Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis, assessment and management of harmful drinking \(high-risk drinking\) and alcohol dependence | Guidance | NICE](#)