

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

Medicine Supply Notification: Pancrease® HL gastro-resistant capsules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

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

Summary

- Pancrease® HL gastro-resistant capsules are being discontinued with stock expected to be exhausted by mid-November 2023.
- Alternative high strength pancreatin preparations remain available and will be able to support increased demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians/prescribers should:

- review patients currently prescribed Pancrease HL capsules and prescribe an alternative high strength pancreatin preparation, titrating dose according to symptoms, and ensuring patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (See Supporting Information below).

Supporting Information

Clinical Information

Pancrease HL gastro-resistant capsules is a high strength pancreatin preparation licensed for exocrine pancreatic enzyme deficiency as in cystic fibrosis, chronic pancreatitis, post pancreatectomy, post gastro-intestinal bypass surgery (eg Billroth II gastroenterostomy), and ductal obstruction from neoplasm (eg of the pancreas or common bile duct).

Alternative high strength preparations include Creon 25,000 and Nutrizyme 22. The preparations differ slightly in the levels of enzymes (see Table 1). Prescribers may need to re-titrate the dose according to symptoms of maldigestion and malabsorption, as well as ensure there is no intolerance to excipients. Of note, Nutrizym 22 contains castor oil which may cause stomach upset and diarrhoea.

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>

Table 1: High strength pancreatin preparations enzyme content

Product	Protease units	Amylase units	Lipase Units
Pancrease HL capsule	1250	22,500	25,000
Creon 25,000 capsule	1000	18,000	25,000
Nutrizyme 22 capsule	1100	19,800	22,000

Please refer to the links below:

- SmPC - Pancrease HL Capsules [Pancrease HL Capsules - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- SmPC – Creon 25,000 capsule [Creon 25000 Capsules - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- SmPC – Nutrizyme 22 capsule [Nutrizym 22 - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)
- BNF - Pancreatin [Pancreatin | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)
- BNF- Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency [Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency | Treatment summaries | BNF | NICE](#)
- Cystic Fibrosis Trust - Pancreatic enzyme supplement and cystic fibrosis [Pancreatic enzyme supplement and CF April 2020.pdf \(cysticfibrosis.org.uk\)](#)