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Medicine Supply Notification: Lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 24/10/2023

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

Summary

- Generic lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets are out of stock until mid-February 2024.
- Branded lamotrigine (Lamictal®) 2mg and 5mg dispersible tablets remain available but cannot fully support the gap in the market.
- A number of Specials manufacturers are able to produce unlicensed lamotrigine 5mg/5ml and 25mg/5ml oral suspension (including sugar-free formulations).
- Where the above options are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of lamotrigine (Lamictal®) 5mg dispersible tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

Primary Care / Secondary Care:

- review patients to ascertain who should be prioritised for any remaining stock of lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets, including those who have an intolerance to excipients in the suspension, or who would have difficulty measuring out a dose of the suspension;
- consider prescribing unlicensed lamotrigine 5mg/5ml or 25mg/5ml oral suspension, available from Specials manufacturers (see Supporting information below), ensuring patients/carers are counselled on the dose/volume required;
- if the above-mentioned options are not appropriate, consider prescribing unlicensed lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Supporting information below);
- reassure patients that whatever they are switched to, they are receiving the same drug at the same dose, and to report any side effects or loss of seizure control, after the switch; and
- if none of above are considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Secondary Care only:

- where there is insufficient stock, and where clinical judgement determines that a patient should remain on a particular manufacturer's product, liaise with pharmacy services to request mutual aid, facilitated by their Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist

Supporting Information

Clinical Information

Lamotrigine is licensed for the treatment of epilepsy and prevention of depressive episodes in patients with bipolar disorder. It is a category 2 antiepileptic drug so the need for continued supply of a particular manufacturer's product should be based on clinical judgement and consultation with patient and/or carer, taking into account factors such as seizure frequency and treatment history, as well as patient/carer-related factors, including their negative perceptions about alternative products.

The dispersible tablets may be chewed or dispersed in a small volume of water or swallowed whole with a little water. The administration of partial quantities of the dispersible tablets is not recommended. The standard tablets are not available in low strengths

Please refer to the links below:

- BNFC Lamotrigine [Lamotrigine | Drugs | BNFC | NICE](#)
- SmPC Lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets [Lamictal Dispersible - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following Specials manufacturers have currently confirmed they can manufacture lamotrigine 5mg/5ml and 25mg/5ml oral suspension (please note, there may be other companies that can also manufacture):

- Eaststone
- Lexon
- Nova
- Rokshaw Laboratories

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed lamotrigine 5mg dispersible/chewable tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Mawdsley's
- 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 - professional standards - GMC \(gmc-uk.org\)](#), General Medical Council (GMC)