



Department
of Health &
Social Care



SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL (SSP)

Reference Number: SSP042

Version Number: 1.0

This SSP applies to the following medicine

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| Name of medicine (including strength and formulation) | Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution |
| Legal category | POM |

1. Details of medication to be supplied under this SSP

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| Name of medicine (including formulation and strength) to be supplied | Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution OR Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml sugar free oral solution OR Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets |
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| <p>Quantity of this formulation</p> | <p>Total quantity supplied in accordance with this protocol is to be equivalent to the number of days treatment supplied on the original prescription.</p> <p>For every 5ml of Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution, the following quantity must – subject to the inclusion criteria below – be supplied in accordance with this protocol:</p> <p>10 ml Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution</p> <p>OR</p> <p>10 ml Phenoxymethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml sugar free oral solution</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1 tablet Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets</p> |
| <p>Substitution results in a change to whether the use is licenced</p> | <p>No. However, if tablets must be manipulated in some way by patients to be ingested (e.g. crushed) then yes. Please refer to the guidance on using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children included in the addendum at the end of this form.</p> |

Scope for which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

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| <p>The SSP applies to the following parts of the UK</p> | <p>UK-wide</p> |
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Clinical situation to which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

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| <p>Scope of SSP</p> | <p>All NHS and private prescriptions.</p> <p>This protocol does not allow for the quantity supplied to be less than the number of days treatment prescribed on the original prescription, although supply might be split between more than one dispensing episode in case of omissions to ensure the patient can commence treatment without delay.</p> |
| <p>Criteria for inclusion</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient presents with a valid prescription (meeting the requirements of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012) for Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution. • The patient/carer consents to receiving the medicine supplied in accordance with this SSP. |

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| Criteria for exclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the pharmacist, using their professional judgement, determines that the patient is not suitable to receive the alternative medicine in accordance with this SSP. • The patient presents with a prescription for a medicine other than Phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution. • The patient presents a prescription which is not valid. • The patient/carer does not consent to receiving the medicine(s) supplied in accordance with this SSP. • Patients who have had a previous allergic reaction to the alternative option and its excipients. • Patients considered to be unsuitable or at higher risk need to be referred back to their prescriber promptly for further advice. |
| Cautions including any relevant action to be taken | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For diabetic patients, pharmacists should supply sugar free options where possible. If this is not available, patients/carers should be informed that there is a small amount of sugar contained in the product supplied but do not withhold treatment. • If supplying the tablet form the pharmacist should be satisfied that the patient is able to accommodate the switch from liquid to tablet. Please refer to the guidance on how to give solid doses to children included in the addendum at the end of this form. Please note that use in this way may be outside the product licence and is thus “off-label”. • Ensure that patients considered unsuitable for inclusion are promptly referred to their prescriber for further advice. |
| Special considerations for specific populations of patients | <p>Patients considered unstable or at higher risk need to be referred back to their prescriber promptly for further advice.</p> |
| Action to be taken if the patient is excluded | <p>If a patient does not meet the criteria within this SSP then they should be referred back to their prescriber promptly.</p> |
| Action to be taken if the patient or carer declines the supply | <p>If a patient/ carer declines to receive medicine in accordance with this SSP, then they should be referred back to their prescriber promptly.</p> |

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| Valid from: | 15/12/2022 |
| Expiry date: | 31/01/2023 |
| Reference number: | SSP042 |
| Version number: | 1.0 |

Any queries regarding the content of this SSP which was issued by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, should be addressed to NHS Prescription Services.

You can get in contact by:

Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 330 1349

Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

You can also write to us at:

| Newcastle | Middlebrook | Wakefield |
|---|--|---|
| NHS Prescription Services Bridge House 152 Pilgrim Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6SN | NHS Prescription Services Ridgway House Northgate Close Middlebrook Horwich Bolton BL6 6PQ | NHS Prescription Services 4th Floor Wakefield House Borough Road Wakefield WF1 3UB |

Change history


| Version number | Change details | Date |
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2. Conditions under which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) will operate

- The decision to supply any medicine in accordance with this protocol rests with the individual registered pharmacist who must abide by the protocol.
- Whilst pharmacy staff may support the dispensing process of the protocol, this must be carried out under the supervision of the registered pharmacist.
- Pharmacists using this SSP must ensure that it is only used within its authorised dates and within the criteria set out within the SSP. Pharmacists must check that they are using the current version of the SSP, particularly when referring to a hard copy version. Amendments may become necessary prior to the published expiry date. Current versions of SSP templates can be found at

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>.

- Users must not alter, amend or add to the content of this document; such action will invalidate the SSP.

| Ministerial ratification by: | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Name | Position | Signature | Date |
| William Quince | Minister of State |  | 15/12/2022 |

ADDENDUM

Supporting information on notifying other healthcare professionals

- Any items supplied in accordance with an SSP in response to an NHS prescription also needs to be supplied in accordance with NHS Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services Regulations.
- Those Regulations provide that where a therapeutic equivalent is supplied, a pharmacist will need to inform a patient's GP practice. This would generally be expected within the next working day, but further guidance would be given in any case where this applied.
- Where a different quantity, an alternative pharmaceutical form, an alternative strength or a generic equivalent is provided, it may not always be necessary that the patient's prescriber is informed, as the existence of the SSP may be enough for the prescriber to be aware that these changes in dispensing may take place, unless national arrangements agreed with the relevant representative bodies state otherwise. However, guidance may be issued on particular SSPs to indicate that prescribers should be informed of any patients that receive supply under it.
- In the absence of any preferred local alternate communication channels, all feedback to prescribers should be sent by NHSmail. The NHS Service Finder is a way for pharmacies to look up the email address of the patient's GP.

Switching from liquid to solid phenoxymethylpenicillin

- When the medicine is for a child and the pharmacist deems it appropriate to substitute to the tablet form in accordance with this SSP, patients/carers should be directed to the following guidance: [Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service.](#)