

# SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL (SSP)

Reference Number: SSP029

- SSP 029 (**this SSP**) – Where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than 3 months of estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets and supplies of estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets are available.
- SSP 030 – Where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for 3 months or less of estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets, supplies of estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets are unavailable, and substitution is deemed clinically appropriate.
- SSP 031 – Where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than 3 months of estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets, supplies of estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets are unavailable, and substitution is deemed clinically appropriate.

**This SSP applies to the following medicine:**

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|--|---|
| <b>Name of medicine (including strength and formulation)</b> | Estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets <b>where supplies are available but the prescription is for more than 3 months' supply.</b><br><br>Refer to SSP 030 and SSP031 for when supplies are unavailable. |
| <b>Legal category</b>  | POM   |

## 1. Details of medication to be supplied under this SSP

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|---|--|
| <b>Name of medicine (including formulation and strength) to be supplied</b> | N/A  |
| <b>Quantity of this formulation (if applicable)</b>                         | Total quantity supplied under this protocol to be equivalent to three months' supply of the prescribed medicine. |
| <b>Substitution results in a change to whether the use is licenced</b>      | No   |

## Scope for which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

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| <b>The SSP applies to the following parts of the UK</b> | Northern Ireland |
|---|------------------|

### Clinical situation to which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Scope of SSP</b>   | All brand and generically prescribed NHS and private prescriptions.   |
| <b>Criteria for inclusion</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The patient presents with a valid prescription (meeting the requirements of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012) for an amount greater than three months' supply for estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets.</li> <li>• The patient/carer is aware that in accordance with this SSP, no further supply can be made from the same prescription above the three-month quantity.</li> <li>• All patients aged 18 years of age or above.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Criteria for exclusion</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The patient presents with a prescription for a medicine other than estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets.</li> <li>• The patient presents a prescription which is not valid.</li> <li>• The patient presents a prescription for estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and/or 1mg gel sachets for an amount less than or equivalent to three months' supply.</li> <li>• The patient/carer does not consent to receiving the medicine supplied in accordance with this SSP.</li> <li>• Patients aged less than 18 years.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Cautions including any relevant action to be taken</b>             | None.   |
| <b>Special considerations for specific populations of patients</b>    | None.   |
| <b>Action to be taken if the patient is excluded</b>                  | None.   |
| <b>Action to be taken if the patient or carer declines the supply</b> | If a patient/carer declines to receive the medicine under this SSP, the pharmacist should use their professional judgement to determine if other courses of action are appropriate whilst taking into consideration wider supply issues. If this does not address their concerns, the patient/carer should be referred back to their prescriber for advice.   |

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| <b>Valid from:</b>       | 25 July 2022    |
| <b>Expiry date:</b>      | 29 October 2022 |
| <b>Reference number:</b> | SSP029          |
| <b>Version number:</b>   | 1.1             |

Any queries regarding the content of this SSP which was issued by the Department of Health – Northern Ireland should be forwarded to [communitypharmacy@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:communitypharmacy@health-ni.gov.uk)

### Change history

| Version number | Change details                          | Date       |
|----------------|---|------------|
| V1.1           | Expiry date extended to 29 October 2022 | 25/07/2022 |
|                |   |            |

### 2. Conditions under which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) will operate

- The decision to supply any medicine under 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 [www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm](http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm)
- 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       |
| Minister Robin Swann         | DOH Minister |  | 25/07/2022 |