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Medicine Supply Notification: Methadone 5mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact
Date of issue: 29/01/2024

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

Summary

- Methadone 5mg tablets are out of stock until late May 2024.
- Supplies will remain available in hospitals throughout this period.
- Methadone 1mg/ml oral solution (with/without sugar) remains available and can support increased demand.
- Unlicensed imports of methadone 5mg tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Prescribers should not initiate new patients on methadone 5mg tablets until the supply issue resolves.

Where patients have insufficient supply of methadone 5mg tablets to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should consider:

- prescribing methadone 1mg/ml oral solution;
- prescribing unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information); or
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on
- alternative management options.

Supporting information

Links to further information

- [SmPC Methadone](#)
- [BNF Methadone](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

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

- Alium Medical
- Mawdsley's Unlicensed
- 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),