



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

3rd December 2024

Dear colleague

**Medicine Supply Notification: Coal tar extract (Neutrogena® T/Gel® Therapeutic)
2% shampoo
Tier 2 – medium impact**

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

Summary

- Coal tar extract (Neutrogena® T/Gel® Therapeutic) 2% shampoo (all pack sizes) is being discontinued from February 2025.
- Alternative coal tar extract preparations remain available and are able to support an increase in demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- not initiate any new patients on Neutrogena® T/Gel® therapeutic shampoo;
- consider prescribing an alternative coal tar extract preparation, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (see Supporting information); or
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

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Supporting information

Clinical Information

Preparation <i>SmPC's linked</i>	Active ingredient	Indication	Licensed age range	Stock status
<u>Psoriderm® Scalp Lotion</u>	Distilled coal tar 2.5% w/v	Topical treatment of psoriasis of the scalp.	Adults and children	In stock-able to support a full increase in demand.
<u>Capasal® Therapeutic Shampoo</u>	Distilled coal tar 1.0% w/w Salicylic acid 0.5% w/w Coconut oil 1.0% w/w <u>Excipients with known effect:</u> Sodium benzoate (E211)	Treatment of dry, scaly scalp conditions such as seborrhoeic eczema, seborrhoeic dermatitis, pityriasis capitis, psoriasis and cradle cap in children. May also be used to remove previous scalp applications.	Adults and children	In stock-able to support a full increase in demand.

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<u>Polytar® Scalp Shampoo</u>	Coal tar solution 4% w/w <u>Excipients with known effect:</u> Benzyl alcohol 1.0% w/w Fragrance Oil 0.5% w/w	Treatment of scalp disorders including: psoriasis, seborrhoeic dermatitis, eczema, pruritus and scaling associated with psoriasis, seborrhoeic dermatitis and eczema, itchy oily scalp, and dandruff.	Adults and adolescents* <i>*not established for use in children under 12 years.</i>	Out of stock until late December 2024. Able to support a full increase in demand from this time.
<u>Exorex® Lotion</u>	Coal tar solution 5% v/w <u>Excipients with known effect:</u> Methyl hydroxybenzoate (E218) 0.10% w/w Propyl hydroxybenzoate (E216) 0.05% w/w Hydrogenated polyoxyl castor oil 0.45% w/w	Treatment of psoriasis of the skin and scalp.	Adults and children* <i>*administration instructions differ depending on patient age.</i>	In stock - able to support a full increase in demand.
<u>Sebco® ointment</u>	Coal Tar Solution 12.0% w/w Sulfur for External Use 4.0% w/w Salicylic Acid 2.0% w/w <u>Excipients with known effect:</u> Cetostearyl alcohol 11.0 % w/w	Treatment of scaly skin disorders of the scalp such as psoriasis, eczema, seborrhoeic dermatitis and dandruff.	Adults and children over 12 years* <i>*to be use in children 6-12 years with medical supervision only. Not recommended for children under 6 years.</i>	In stock-able to support a full increase in demand.
<u>Cocois® Ointment</u>	Coal Tar Solution BP 12% w/w Precipitated Sulphur Ph.Eur 4% w/w Salicylic Acid Ph.Eur 2% w/w	Treatment of scaly skin disorders of the scalp such as psoriasis, eczema, seborrhoeic dermatitis and dandruff.	Adults and children over 12 years* <i>*to be use in children 6-12 years with medical supervision only. Not recommended for children under 6 years.</i>	In stock- cannot support any increase in demand.

Individual SmPCs should be checked for dosing, contraindications, cautions and the full list of excipients as these vary between products.



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Links to further information

[NICE- Clinical Knowledge Summaries: Coal Tar Products](#)

[BNF: Coal Tar](#)

[SmPC: Neutrogena TGel Therapeutic Shampoo](#)