

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

Medicine Supply Notification: Tolterodine 2mg and 4mg modified-release capsules
Tier 2 – medium impact
Date of issue: 20/05/2025

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

Summary

- Tolterodine 2mg and 4mg modified-release (MR) capsules are in limited supply until mid-August and mid-September 2025, respectively.
- Tolterodine 1mg and 2mg immediate release (IR) tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
- Alternative once-daily antimuscarinics also remain available and can support increased demand.
- Unlicensed imports of tolterodine MR capsules may be sourced; lead times vary.

Actions Required

Prescribers should not initiate new patients on tolterodine MR capsules until the supply issues have resolved.

Review patients and the ongoing need for antimuscarinic treatment. Where ongoing treatment is appropriate, and patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, clinicians should consider prescribing:

- tolterodine IR tablets, ensuring the patient is counselled on the new dose and frequency (see Supporting information); or
- an alternative once-daily antimuscarinic (see Supporting information); or
- unlicensed tolterodine MR capsules where the above options are not appropriate (see Supporting information).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Tolterodine is indicated for the treatment of urge incontinence and/or increased urinary frequency and urgency as may occur in patients with overactive bladder syndrome. It is licensed for use in adults, and is used off-label in children.

The MR preparations may be associated with a lower rate of dry mouth than IR preparations. The dose of MR preparations is 4mg once daily except in patients with impaired liver function or severely impaired renal function, or in case of troublesome side-effects, where the dose is 2mg once daily. When switching to an IR preparation, the total daily dose is the same but it is administered in two divided doses, and in case of side-effects, dose adjustment may be required.

Other once-daily antimuscarinics are an option for patients unable to tolerate IR tolterodine or adhere to its twice daily dose regimen. These include oxybutynin MR, solifenacin, trospium MR, darifenacin, fesoterodine, and propiverine MR. Individual SmPCs should be consulted for indications, cautions, contraindications and excipients, as these may vary between products.

Links to further information

[SmPC Tolterodine](#)

[BNF Tolterodine](#)

[BNFC Tolterodine](#)

[BNF Oxybutynin](#)

[BNF Solifenacin](#)

[BNF Trospium](#)

[BNF Darifenacin](#)

[BNF Fesoterodine](#)

[BNF Propiverine](#)

[BNF treatment summary lower urinary tract symptoms in males](#)

[BNF treatment summary urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women](#)

[BNFC treatment summary urinary frequency, enuresis and incontinence](#)

[NICE CKS Incontinence – urinary, in women](#)

[NICE CKS LUTS in men](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following Specialist Importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed tolterodine 2mg and 4mg MR capsules. Please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies:

- Chemys Ltd
- Target Healthcare

Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes.

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),

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the HS21 prescription that an unlicensed product is required, with the following wording: “**special order**”.