



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification: Betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablets sugar free  
Tier 2 – medium impact

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

## Summary

- Betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablets are out of stock until late July 2025, when a limited resupply is expected; full resupply is anticipated mid-October 2025.
- Alternative soluble oral corticosteroids remain available and can support increased demand.
- Alternative treatment options remain available that may be utilised off-label as a mouthwash, at the discretion of the prescriber.

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Prescribers should not initiate new patients on betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablets until the supply issue has fully resolved, and:

- where patients using the tablets to make up a mouthwash (Note: this is off-label use) have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should consider prescribing: [prednisolone 5mg soluble tablets\\*](#) or [fluticasone 400microgram nasules\\*](#) (Note: this is off-label use). Clinicians should explain to patients how to use these preparations as a mouthwash and provide them with the patient information leaflet (see Supporting information);
- if the above options are not considered suitable, advice should be sought from specialist oral medicine team.

Dentists should work with primary and secondary care prescribers to ensure patients can access the alternative treatment options not included in the Dental Practitioner Formulary, as these will need prescribing by a non-dentist.

If there is any use systemically, patients should be reviewed and another oral corticosteroid prescribed, ensuring that the patient is counselled on the appropriate dose, and is not intolerant

## Actions Required

\*the above mentioned alternative treatment options are not included in the Dental Practitioners Formulary, which only lists betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablets.

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Betamethasone soluble tablets are licensed for a range of systemic conditions that require corticosteroid therapy (including respiratory, rheumatology, dermatology, renal, gastroenterology, and haematology/oncology indications).

Betamethasone tablets may be used topically (e.g. as mouthwash) to treat oral ulceration [Note: this is off-label use]. Mouthwashes are useful for treating large areas of the mouth, and lesions which cannot be easily accessed by ointments or sprays.

### Links to further information

[SmPC Betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablets](#)



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[SmPC Prednisolone 5mg Soluble Tablets](#)

[SmPC Dexamethasone soluble tablets](#)

[SmPC Dexamethasone oral solution](#)

[BNF Betamethasone](#)

[BNF Oral ulceration and inflammation - Treatment summary](#)

[BNF Corticosteroids, general use - Treatment summary](#)

[BNF Corticosteroids, inflammatory disorders - Treatment summary](#)

[Patient Information - British & Irish Society for Oral Medicine](#)

[Dental Practitioners' Formulary | BNF | NICE](#)