

From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Professor Cathy Harrison



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Date: 22 July 2025

FOR ACTION

Chief Operating Officer, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (*for onward transmission to relevant staff*)

Chief Executive, Business Services Organisation (*for onward transmission to relevant staff*)

Assistant Director of Integrated Care, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, SPPG (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*).

Head of General Medical Services, SPPG (*for onward distribution to GP Practices*)

GP Medical Advisers, Strategic Planning and Performance Group.

Dear Colleagues,

SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL WITHDRAWAL – VENLAFAXINE 37.5MG MODIFIED-RELEASE TABLET

Serious shortage protocols (SSPs) under the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMRs) are an additional tool to manage and mitigate medicines shortages. An SSP enables community pharmacists to supply a specified medicine in accordance with a protocol rather than a prescription, without needing to seek authorisation from the prescriber, saving time for patients, pharmacists and prescribers. They are used in the case of a serious shortage, where a medicine would be likely to be out of stock for some time, and if, in the opinion of ministers, it would help manage the supply situation.

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has confirmed that the supply situation regarding the availability of **venlafaxine 37.5mg modified release tablets** across the UK has now been resolved. **SSP083** which was due to expire on Friday 2 August 2025 is being withdrawn and will now expire from today, **Tuesday 22 July 2025**.

Action Required

All relevant staff should be made aware of this SSP withdrawal. I would ask the SPPG to bring this information to the attention of GP Practices and Community Pharmacists directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Harrison', with a stylized, flowing script.

Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer