

From Kathryn Turner, Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management (Interim)



By email

To All GP practices
To All Community Pharmacies

Strategic Planning and Performance Group

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Dear Colleague

UPDATE: AVAILABILITY OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS USED IN TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TREATMENT WITHIN PRIMARY CARE

This letter provides updated information regarding the availability of anti-tuberculosis (TB) medicines and also provides updated advice and guidance from the [letter](#) published on 26 August 2025.

The advice in this letter should be used in conjunction with the updated [National Patient Safety Alert](#) issued on 1 August 2025.

Stock Availability

It is important to note that there will be monthly allocations and prescription validation in place for certain licensed TB medicines until at least the end of 2025. This is to help preserve stocks at national and local level.

Both general practices and community pharmacies should refer to the [NHS SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#) for the most up-to-date information on TB medicines, including the ordering arrangements and anticipated resupply dates of licensed stock.

Additionally, to ensure there are adequate supplies for patients to access stock locally within primary care, unlicensed rifampicin 300mg/ isoniazid 150mg capsules (Sinerdol® ISO) in packs of 60 capsules have been produced by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Victoria Pharmaceuticals and are now available to order from Movianto with a reimbursement price of £67.27.

Orders can be placed by emailing Movianto via contact.nireland@movianto.com and completing their unlicensed medicine ordering form.

Actions for GPs

1. Proactively identify patients within your practice who receive any of the affected TB treatments noted in the [National Patient Safety Alert](#).
2. If a prescription is required:
 - a. Liaise with local community pharmacies to understand what products are available which may include monotherapies and/or combination products, and refer to the [National Patient Safety Alert](#) for potential therapeutic alternatives for the patient.
 - b. Prescribers may wish to consider prescribing combination products where available, including unlicensed rifampicin 300mg/ isoniazid 150mg capsules in packs of 60, with consideration of patient compliance.
 - i. If prescribing unlicensed rifampicin 300mg/ isoniazid 150mg capsules this should be endorsed as a 'special order'.
 - c. Prescribe a maximum of one month's supply to conserve stock.
 - d. Allow sufficient time for patient's community pharmacy to access stock. Ensure patients are informed and fully counselled about any changes to their usual or expected medication using multi-language patient-facing communications are provided where appropriate.

Actions for community pharmacies

1. Contact usual wholesalers to confirm stock availability:
 - a. If licensed stock is available, order as required.
 - b. If prescription validation is in place, follow the necessary procedures for ordering.
2. If the prescriber has requested unlicensed rifampicin 300mg/ isoniazid 150mg capsules:
 - a. Place an order with Movianto by emailing contact.nireland@movianto.com and complete the company's unlicensed medicine ordering form.
 - b. A pharmacy dispensing label must be applied to the packaging and a patient information leaflet must be supplied, available at [PACKAGE LEAFLET](#)
 - c. Code and endorse the prescription as a special and submit the prescription to BSO with a unique valid invoice as set out in [BSO's guidance](#).
3. If the above options are not suitable:
 - a. Check the [NHS SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#) for information about which wholesalers can source supplies of unlicensed imports.
 - b. If an unlicensed import can be sourced contact prescriber for approval.
 - i. Inform them that the product is unlicensed and the cost.
 - ii. Code and endorse the prescription as a special and submit the prescription to BSO with a unique valid invoice as set out in [BSO's guidance](#).

SPPG will keep you updated on any further developments.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Turner

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