



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear colleague

**Medicine Supply Notification: Phenobarbital 30mg and 60mg tablets**  
**Tier 2 – medium impact**

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

### Summary

- Phenobarbital 30mg tablets and 60mg tablets (Teva) are out of stock until mid/late March 2026.
- Phenobarbital 60mg tablets (Accord) are out of stock until late February 2026.
- Phenobarbital 30mg tablets from other manufacturers (Accord and Bristol) remain available and can support increased demand.
- Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Teva) remain available but can only support a partial uplift in demand where alternative options are unsuitable.

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## ACTIONS REQUIRED

Clinicians should not initiate new patients on phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Teva) or 60mg tablets (Teva or Accord) until the supply issues resolve.

Where existing patients have insufficient stock to last until the resupply date clinicians should:

- consider prescribing phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Accord or Bristol) to make up the required dose; or
- consider prescribing phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Teva) to make up the required dose, only where patients cannot be switched to an alternative manufacturer's product; and
- ensure the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and are counselled on the dose and correct number of tablets to take; and
- reassure patients that they are receiving the same medicine, but from a different manufacturer, in order to maintain treatment, and advise patients to seek advice if they experience loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects after switching brand.

If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management plans.

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Phenobarbital is a category 1 anti-epileptic drug [Antiepileptic drugs: new advice on switching between different manufacturers' products for a particular drug - GOV.UK](#) so ideally patients should be maintained on a specific manufacturer's product. Patients should be monitored after a switch in manufacturer's product for loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects.

### Links to further information

- SPC Phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Teva) [Microsoft Word - 4005383010961896061\\_spc-doc.doc](#)
- SPC Phenobarbital 60mg tablets (Teva) [Microsoft Word - 7647174556245269471\\_spc-doc.doc](#)
- SPC Phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Accord) [Microsoft Word - 3527118843951290585\\_spc-doc.doc](#)



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- SPC Phenobarbital 60mg tablets (Accord) [Microsoft Word - 4876525719685732338\\_spc-doc.doc](#)
  - SPC Phenobarbital 30mg tablets (Bristol Laboratories) [Microsoft Word - 6313436948887731\\_spc-doc.doc](#)
  - SPC Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Teva) [Microsoft Word - 885558196458051986\\_spc-doc.doc](#)
  - BNF Phenobarbital [Phenobarbital | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)
- BNFC Phenobarbital [Phenobarbital | Drugs | BNFC | NICE](#)