

**From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Professor Cathy Harrison**



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*).

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Dear Colleagues,

SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL– RAMIPRIL 1.25MG CAPSULES

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 in response to a current supply disruption affecting **ramipril 1.25mg capsules**, an SSP has been issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). From today, [SSP087](#) provides that **where supplies are available of ramipril 1.25mg capsules, but the prescription is for more than one month's supply, a total quantity equivalent to one month's supply can be made.**

This SSP, authorised by the Secretary of State on behalf of the four UK nations, has been developed by clinicians and provides pharmacists with procedures to follow in providing, where supplies are available, a reduced quantity of prescribed medication to help ensure more patients can access this treatment.

SSP087 is due to expire on **Friday 29 May 2026**. Pharmacists should refer to the latest version of this SSP which is available on the Business Services Organisation (BSO) dedicated page on its website:

<https://bso.hscni.net/directorates/operations/family-practitioner-services/pharmacy/contractor-information/drug-tariff-and-related-materials/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps/>

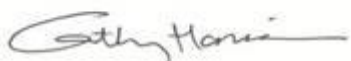
Key Points:

- For **SSP087**, where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than one month's supply, the pharmacist under this protocol can make a reduced supply which is equivalent to one month's supply of the prescribed medicine.
- The patient/carer must be made aware that in accordance with this SSP, no further supply can be made from the same prescription above the one-month quantity.
- When supplying in accordance with this SSP, ensure patients are advised to contact their prescriber and/or GP practice to reorder their medication on time.
- For patients with a prescription for one month or less, supply the full amount prescribed, if available. If full supply is not available, then refer the patient to a pharmacy that has stock or refer back to the prescriber.
- Pharmacists do not need to routinely notify the prescriber and/or GP practice where a reduced quantity has been supplied under this SSP. Please refer to '[Outline of Operational Guidance for Dispensers in response to issue of a Serious Shortage Protocol](#)' on the BSO website for more information.
- If a patient/carer declines to receive the reduced quantity of medicine under the SSP, the pharmacist should use their professional judgement to determine if other courses of action are appropriate whilst taking into consideration wider supply issues. If this does not address their concerns, the patient/carer should be referred back to their prescriber for advice.

Action Required

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

Yours sincerely,



Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer