



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

To: All Community Pharmacists

22nd June 2026

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification: Propafenone (Arythmol®) 150mg tablets
Tier 2 – medium impact

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

Summary

- Propafenone (Arythmol®) 150mg tablets are out of stock until late July 2026.
- Propafenone (Arythmol®) 300mg tablets remain available and can support a limited increase in demand, but they should not be halved to deliver a 150mg dose.
- Flecainide 50mg and 100mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
- Alternative medicines for ventricular and supraventricular arrhythmias remain available



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ACTIONS REQUIRED

Clinicians should not initiate new patients on propafenone 150mg tablets until the supply issue has resolved.

Where patients have insufficient supply to last until the resupply date, clinicians, with advice from secondary care specialists, should consider:

- prescribing flecainide tablets, taking into account medical and treatment history, previous hypersensitivity and adverse reactions, and ensure patient is counselled on the appropriate dose (see supporting information); or
- where the above option is not suitable and propafenone is preferred agent, consider if dosing regimen can be increased to 300mg twice a day, ensuring the patient is counselled on the increase in dose, and consider an ECG to check QRS duration within 2 weeks of dose change (see supporting information).

If the above options are not appropriate the patient should be referred to secondary care specialists for a management plan.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Propafenone is indicated for prophylaxis and treatment of:

- ventricular arrhythmias
- paroxysmal supraventricular tachyarrhythmias which include paroxysmal atrial flutter/fibrillation and paroxysmal re-entrant tachycardias involving the AV node or accessory bypass tracts, when standard therapy has failed or is contra-indicated

The 300 mg tablets are film-coated, unscored, and must be swallowed whole. They should not be halved to deliver a 150mg dose as this compromises the coating designed to mitigate bitter taste and local anaesthetic effects. Tablet splitting could also potentially alter bioavailability or tolerability, resulting in dose inaccuracy, which poses risks as propafenone has a narrow therapeutic index.

Accurate dosing is critical, especially in patients at risk of proarrhythmic effects, and propafenone therapy typically requires ECG monitoring during dose titration.

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Flecainide has a therapeutic profile which is almost identical to propafenone. It has been claimed to have some beta-blocking properties, but in practice, this is not clinically significant. Strict medical monitoring of ECG and plasma levels during treatment is required.

Table 1: Alternative agents

Agent	Formulation	Dose
Flecainide	50mg and 100mg tablets	Supraventricular arrhythmias: 50mg to 100mg BD (maximum daily dose 150mg BD) Ventricular arrhythmias: 100 mg BD (maximum daily dose 200 mg BD)
Propafenone	300mg tablets	300mg BD (after dose titration with 150mg TDS)

Links to further information:

- SmPC Propafenone (Arythmol®) tablets [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
- SmPC Flecainide tablets [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
- BNF Propafenone hydrochloride [Propafenone hydrochloride | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)
- BNF Flecainide acetate [Flecainide acetate | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)
- BNF Treatment Summary – Arrhythmias [Arrhythmias | Treatment summaries | BNF | NICE](#)