

DHSC briefing: Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) supply issues update – August 2019

Summary

- The Department of Health and Social care (DHSC) are aware of ongoing supply issues affecting some hormone replacement therapy (HRT) preparations due to manufacturing issues.
- We have been working closely with all suppliers of HRT medicines to maintain overall supply to patients and have provided regular updates about the supply issues to the NHS through monthly supply reports which go out to primary care networks including clinical commissioning groups (CCGs).
- Although some HRT products are affected by supply issues, supplies of several other alternative HRT products remain available.

Supply issues affecting Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)

There have been ongoing issues throughout 2019 affecting some HRT preparations due to manufacturing issues. The full list of products that have experienced supply disruption is at Annex 1.

As a result of these disruptions, DHSC have been working closely with all suppliers of HRT products. Although some HRT products are temporarily unavailable, we can confirm that supplies of a variety of other HRT preparations remain available. This includes both oestrogen only HRT preparations (oral tablets, transdermal patches and gels) and estradiol/ progestogen combination products marketed as tablets and transdermal patches. A list of these non-affected products can be found in Annex 2.

We are continuing to work directly with all suppliers of the affected and alternative products. Several brands have recently just come back into stock over the past week, which should help improve the situation. A list of the recently resolved issues can be found in Annex 3.

DHSC have also recently been made aware of a longer-term issue affecting Janssen-Cilag's range of HRT products, who are one of the major HRT suppliers. This supply issue will start to impact the UK market from October 2019 (further details in Annex 4).

We have shared relevant information about the HRT supply issues with the NHS via a monthly report that goes out to primary care networks, which advises on the products experiencing supply issues and also provides an update on HRT products that remain available. We are planning wider NHS communications on HRT supply issues, which we will issue in the coming days.

DHSC will continue to work with all suppliers to expedite the resupply dates of the disrupted HRT products and will closely monitor the overall HRT market supply situation.

ANNEX 1: Current supply issues affecting HRT products

Zumenon (estradiol only) 1mg and 2mg tablets

- Zumenon is an oestrogen only continuous HRT tablet for women with or without a uterus, manufactured by Mylan.
- At the end of July 2019, Mylan notified the DHSC that due to manufacturing capacity constraints there would be a short interruption in supply.
- Currently, Mylan are out of stock of both strengths but expect replenishment of the 1mg tablets at the beginning of September and the 2mg strength at the end of August 2019.

Indivina 2mg/5mg tablets:

- Indivina tablets contain estradiol/ medroxyprogesterone.
- Indivina tablets are indicated for oestrogen deficiency symptoms in women with an intact uterus more than three years after menopause and in postmenopausal women at high risk of future fractures.
- Orion, the sole manufacturer of Indivina 2mg/5mg HRT tablets, have reported due to an unexpected increased in demand, they will be out of stock of this strength from June 2019 until end of August 2019.
- We have been working closely with Orion who have advised there is sufficient stock of Indivina 1mg/2.5mg tablets (lower strength) to cover an uplift in demand until the higher strength is back in stock.

FemSeven Sequi and Conti transdermal patches:

- Femseven Sequi and Conti transdermal patches are an estradiol/levonorgestrel combination products.
- They are indicated for the management of menopausal symptoms in women with a uterus.
- Teva divested the FemSeven product range to a new manufacturer called Theramex in mid-2018.
- Theramex have confirmed that whilst new manufacturing arrangements are being established, FemSeven Sequi and Conti will be out of stock long term.
- Theramex have advised they anticipate having this resolved between Q4 2019 and Q2 2020.
- This supply issue does not affect supplies of FemSeven Mono.

ANNEX 2: Supplies of HRT product currently available

As a result of the supply issues affecting HRT, we have been closely monitoring the overall HRT market supply situation and can advise that supplies of a variety of other HRT preparations remain available as listed below:

Estradiol ONLY products currently available are as follows:

- Progynova TS transdermal patches and Progynova tablets.
- Estradot transdermal patches
- Evorel transdermal patches
- FemSeven Mono transdermal patches
- Ovestin cream
- Sandrena gel
- Oestrogel

Conjugated oestrogen tablets:

- Premarin tablets (all strengths)

Estradiol/ progestogen combination products currently available are as follows:

- Femoston and Femoston Conti (estradiol with dydrogesterone) tablets.
- Kliofem, Novofem, Kliovance and Trisequens (estradiol and norethisterone) tablets
- Indivina (estradiol with medroxyprogesterone acetate) tablets (1mg/2.5mg) tablets
- Primique (conjugated oestrogen and medroxyprogesterone) tablets
- Evorel Conti (estradiol and norethisterone) transdermal patches

Annex 3: Recently resolved HRT product supply issues

Elleste HRT range - resolved August 2019

(Elleste Solo (estradiol only), 1mg, 2mg; Elleste Duet (estradiol/norethisterone) 1mg tablets; Elleste Solo (estradiol only), Elleste MX 40micrograms and 80micrograms patches):

- Mylan, the sole UK supplier have experienced ongoing manufacturing issues since early 2019 due to MHRA regulatory action at their contract manufacturing site.
- DHSC officials have also been liaising with Mylan on a weekly basis in order to monitor the supply situation and where possible to help resolve the problem and expedite a resupply date.
- Mylan have recently advised that supplies of Elleste Duet Conti, Elleste Duet 2mg tablets, Elleste solo 1mg and 2mg tablets, Elleste Duet 1mg and Elleste MX 40 and 80micrograms patches have been replenished and are now available.
- However, Mylan have advised they are still experiencing on going manufacturing problems, therefore, currently they do not have visibility on future supplies.
- DHSC are working with Mylan and awaiting further information to understand the long-term implications of this.

Annex 4: Upcoming supply issues affecting HRT products – from October 2019

Evorel HRT transdermal patch range:

Evorel (estradiol only) 25, 50, 75 and 100 micrograms transdermal patches; Evorel Conti and Sequi transdermal patches (estradiol/norethisterone):

- In June 2019, Janssen-Cilag, the manufacturer of the Evorel HRT transdermal patch range (Evorel; Evorel Conti; Evorel Sequi) notified the DHSC that the whole range will be out of stock from October 2019 for most presentations, whilst the remaining presentations are expected to last until early 2020.
- Currently, Janssen-Cilag are unable to give an exact resupply date beyond mid-2020
- We have been working closely with Janssen to understand if the supply interruption can be prevented and have requested that they explore further resolution.
- Clinical advice has been commissioned about suitable alternatives and the availability of parallel imports is being explored and we will share communications regarding the Evorel shortage with the NHS imminently as Janssen-Cilag have now publicly communicated about their long-term supply disruption.