




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

MEDICINES SHORTAGE ADVISORY GROUP WALES

MEDICINE SHORTAGE

Distribution:	As Annex 1
From:	Andrew Evans, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Date:	11/11/2019
Reference:	CPhO/MedsLet/2019/20
Category:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Level 2: Medium impact – action within 48 hrs
Title:	Disruption to supply of Pethidine 50mg tablets
For Action by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Action and information as belowDispensing General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Action and information as belowCommunity Pharmacists. Action and information as belowChief Pharmacists. Action and information as below

Timeframe: Action within 48 hrs
For Information: See Annex 1 – Distribution List
Product affected: Pethidine 50mg tablets
What this is about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martindale, the major supplier of pethidine 50mg tablets are out of stock.• Teva, the other supplier of this product, have been out of stock for the last 3-4 months.• Teva anticipate resupply in early December 2019. Martindale are unable to provide a resupply date but anticipate it may not be until early 2020.
Reasons for shortage: <p>Teva - change of ownership. The buffer stock held ran out prematurely and this has been followed by delays to import licences.</p> <p>Martindale have experienced a delay in receiving their new reference standards.</p>
Action: <p>Martindale have indicated they could produce an unlicensed capsule during the out of stock period, however, not in sufficient quantities to support the full market. Patients may need to be switched to alternative agents.</p> <p>Patients who have been taking pethidine long term will be vulnerable to withdrawal symptoms if stopped abruptly. As such, there may be a requirement to switch patients from pethidine to an equivalent dose opioid with patients ideally having a review to determine ongoing need with a view to weaning off if there is no clinical indication.</p>
Queries <p>For all queries email: Medicinesshortages@gov.wales</p> <p>Information about current medicines shortages can be found at: http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=428&pid=77202</p>
Yours sincerely 

Andrew Evans

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer/Prif Swyddog Fferyllol
Welsh Government/Llywodraeth Cymru

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Send to:

Chief Executives of Health Boards
Medical Directors of Health Boards
Nurse Directors Health Boards
Directors of Public Health
Health Board Chief Pharmacists
Hospital Chief Pharmacists
Health Board Prescribing Advisers
PHW Consultants in Pharmaceutical Public Health
Chief Executives of NHS Trusts
Principal Pharmacist Welsh Quality Control
Principal Pharmacist Continuing Care Services
Principal Pharmacist Welsh Medicines Information Centre
CSSIW
NHS Direct

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:

General Practitioners
Dispensing General Practitioners
Community Pharmacists
Independent / Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout
Wales

Welsh Government:

Chief Medical Officer
Chief Nursing Officer
Chief Dental Officer
Chief Optometric Officer

Chief Scientific Officer

Chief Therapies Officer

Director General Health and Social Services Group

Emergency Planning Adviser

Deputy Director Primary Care

Director Primary Care & Innovation

HSSG Comms

NHS Procurement Specialist – Tracey Prothero tracey.prothero@wales.nhs.uk