



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## MEDICINES SHORTAGE ADVISORY GROUP WALES

### MEDICINE SHORTAGE

<b>Distribution:</b>	As Annex 1
<b>From:</b>	Andrew Evans, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reference:</b>	CPhO/MedsLet/2019/13
<b>Category:</b>	Level 3 - High impact
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Disruption to supply:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tiagabine 5mg/10mg/15mg tablets</li><li>• Capsaicin cream - Zacin® 0.025%      Axsain® 0.075%</li><li>• Mianserin 10mg and 30mg tablets</li></ul> <p><b>Disruption Resolved:</b> Epanutin® 30mg/5ml suspension</p>
<b>For Action by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All General Practitioners - retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Action as below.</li><li>• Dispensing General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Action as below.</li><li>• Community Pharmacists - Action as below.</li><li>• Hospital Chief Pharmacists - Action as below.</li><li>• Medical Directors of Health Boards - disseminate to relevant clinicians in secondary care setting – Action as below.</li></ul>

**Timeframe:** Action within 24 hrs

**For Information:** See Annex 1 – Distribution List

Key Recipients:

Chief Executives of Health Boards  
Nurse Directors Health Boards  
Directors of Public Health  
Health Board and NHS Trust Chief Pharmacists  
Health Board Prescribing Advisers  
Chief Executives of NHS Trusts  
Director Welsh Medicines Information Centre  
NHS Direct Wales

**What is this about:**

**Disruption to supply:**

- Tiagabine 5mg/10mg/15mg tablets
- Capsaicin cream - Zacin® 0.025% and Axsain® 0.075%
- Mianserin 10mg and 30mg tablets

**Disruption Resolved:** Epanutin® 30mg/5ml suspension

**Issue & Action to be taken:**

**ISSUE**

**Supply Disruption**

Medicines in the below table are experiencing supply disruption.

Medicine	Manufacturer	Out of Stock Duration	Mitigation
Tiagabine 5mg/10mg/15mg tablets	Teva	All strengths out of stock until end of October 2019	Pharmacies struggling to obtain supplies are invited to call Teva customer services who will assist in locating and sharing stock between Alliance depots. This is an EU wide issue.  Unlicensed imports are available with a 1 to 2 week lead time
Capsaicin cream Zacin® 0.025% Axsain® 0.075%	Teva	Until at least November 2019	Unlicensed imports are available with a 1 to 2 week lead time  UKMI memo published

			- <a href="https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-capsaicin-cream-zacin-and-axsain/">https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-capsaicin-cream-zacin-and-axsain/</a>
Mianserin 10mg and 30mg tablets	Mylan	End of December 2019	Unlicensed imports available.

**ACTION:**

Prescribers and dispensers should consider taking appropriate mitigating action as set out in the above table.

Clinicians may be required to switch patients to alternative formulation or unlicensed product.

When prescribing and dispensing unlicensed preparations, prescribers and pharmacists should always ensure the following:

Use of unlicensed products should be in line with agreed local policies and guidance.

Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must take into account the relevant GMC guidance and local governance procedures. Please see link to GMC guidance:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/prescribing-and-managing-medicines-and-devices/prescribing-unlicensed-medicines>

**Disruption Resolved**

Epanutin® 30mg/5ml suspension (Pfizer). Licensed stock is now available in wholesalers again and should be prescribed in preference to unlicensed alternatives.

**QUERIES**

For all correspondence please contact:

[Medicinesshortages@gov.wales](mailto:Medicinesshortages@gov.wales)

Please forward to listed recipients.

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  
Health Board Chief Pharmacists  
Hospital Chief Pharmacists  
Chief Executives of NHS Trusts  
Director of Welsh Medicines Information Centre  
NHS Wales Procurement  
NHS Direct

**NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:**

General Practitioners  
Dispensing General Practitioners  
Community Pharmacists  
Independent / Private clinics, hospices and hospitals throughout  
Wales

**Welsh Government:**

Chief Medical Officer  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Director General Health and Social Services Group  
Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety  
Emergency Planning Adviser  
HSSG Comms