



Medicine Supply Notification

Reference: MSN/2020/005

Salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup

Tier 2- medium impact*

Date of issue: 11/02/2020

Summary

- Salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup is out of stock until the end of February 2020.
- Unlicensed imports of salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup are available.
- Salbutamol 2mg and 4mg tablets remain available.

Actions Required

For patients with insufficient supplies during this time, clinicians should consider:

- prescribing an unlicensed import of salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup (see advice below); or
- prescribing salbutamol 2mg or 4mg tablets (see advice below).

Supporting Information

- The following specialist importers have currently confirmed availability of unlicensed salbutamol 2mg/5ml syrup (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical
 - Clinigen
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and/or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information.
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
 - [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
 - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done by annotating the prescription with the following wording: “**special order**”
- Salbutamol 2mg or 4mg tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water. Please note, this is unlicensed practice. If this option is deemed appropriate, prescribers and pharmacists should ensure that patients and their carers are counselled appropriately on how to prepare and administer the dose correctly, particularly if a part dose is required.
- Further advice on alternative options can be found in the UK Medicines Information (UKMi) memo: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-salbutamol-syrup-2mg-5ml/>

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link: [A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages](#).