



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/031

## Prednisolone 5mg Suppositories (RPH Pharmaceuticals)

Tier 2- medium impact\*

Date of issue: 10/06/2020

### Summary

- Prednisolone 5mg suppositories, are out of stock of until end of July 2020 due to manufacturing issues.
- Unlicensed supplies of prednisolone 5mg suppositories have been sourced, lead times vary.

### Actions Required

- For patients with insufficient supplies, clinicians should consider prescribing unlicensed prednisolone 5mg suppositories and work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information); or
- where unlicensed imports are not considered appropriate, UKMi guidance regarding alternative treatments (see supporting information) should be considered.

### Supporting Information

#### Supply information:

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed prednisolone 5mg suppositories (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Alium Medical
  - Clinigen
  - Mawdsleys
- 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**”

#### Clinical information:

Where unlicensed supplies are not considered appropriate, UKMi suggest use of Budenofalk® (budesonide) 2mg/dose rectal foam (see SPC for information on dose; use for anal complications of Crohn’s disease would be off-label).

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

If neither of the above options are considered appropriate and patients have not trialled a rectal 5-ASA suppository previously, Pentasa® (mesalazine) 1g suppositories and Salofalk® (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories are currently available. Use of either for anal complications of Crohn's disease would be off-label.

For patients who have not responded to 5-ASA treatment, advice should be sought from a specialist on possible management options.

## Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk)