



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/051UU

Glucagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen®)

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 18/12/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- There are two licensed glucagon preparations: GlucaGen® (1mg powder for injection kit) and Ogluo® (0.5mg and 1mg pre-filled auto-injector pens)
- There will be intermittent supply of GlucaGen® 1mg powder for injection kit until the end of March 2024.
- Supply of GlucaGen® 1mg powder for injection kit allows demand to be met in primary care.
- Ogluo® 0.5mg and 1mg pre-filled auto-injector pens are available (from Alliance) and can be used for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes; however, they are not suitable for treatment of beta blocker or other drug overdoses.

Actions Required

Pharmacy staff in Secondary care should:

- Ensure any short dated GlucaGen® stock in pharmacy is used up before it expires.

Clinicians considering the use of glucagon in secondary care settings should:

- Contact the National Poisons Information Service (0344 892 0111) to discuss treatment options for severe hypotension following overdose of beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers or tricyclic antidepressants; further detail is also available on [TOXBASE](#).
- Use Ogluo® pre-filled auto-injector pen to treat severe hypoglycaemic episodes when GlucaGen® is not available.
- Use an unlicensed import (see below) if UK stock is not available

Ambulance service should:

- Conserve GlucaGen® for use for severe hypoglycaemic episodes when IV glucose 10% has failed or there is no IV access.
- Only use GlucaGen® kit ONCE in patients who are unconscious and unresponsive to IV glucose 10%.
- Follow the [JRCALC guidelines](#) for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Hypoglycaemia

Glucagon is indicated for treatment of severe hypoglycaemic reactions, which may occur in the management of insulin treated children and adults with diabetes mellitus. It is available in two formulations:

- GlucaGen® (powder for reconstitution) - licensed to be given subcutaneously and intramuscularly. It is also licensed to be used diagnostically for testing gastric motility.
- Ogluo® (pre-filled auto-injector pen containing solution) - only licensed to be given subcutaneously.

Beta-blocker and other drug overdoses

- Intravenous glucagon (unlicensed) is a treatment option for severe cardiovascular instability in beta-blocker overdose, and some other drug overdoses including calcium channel blockers and tricyclic antidepressants.
- GlucaGen® vials are normally reconstituted and given as an initial bolus which may be followed by an IV infusion.
- Ogluo® is not licensed or suitable for the management of beta-blocker or other drug overdoses as this is a pre-filled device, and the solution cannot be removed to be added to an IV infusion.

Patient Counselling

Ogluo® instruction videos for patients can be found on the manufacturer's website: [Ogluo | Tetris Pharma](#)

Please refer to the links below

- [BNF: Glucagon](#)
- [SmPC: GlucaGen Hypokit 1 mg](#)
- [SmPC: Ogluo 1mg](#)
- [SmPC: Ogluo 0.5mg](#)
- [BNF: Poisoning, emergency treatment](#)
- [RCEM/NPIS Guideline on Antidote Availability for Emergency Departments \(December 2022\)](#)
- [Ogluo administration guide and video](#)
- [TOXBASE \(log in required\)](#)
- [Joint Royal College of Ambulance Liaison Committee \(JRCALC\) Guidelines \(restricted access\)](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source some supplies of GlucaGen®
 - Mawdsleys
 - Target Healthcare
- Other importers may also be able to source stock within Europe
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:
 - [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
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),

Enquiries

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