



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/042

Oxycodone Hydrochloride 5mg/5ml Oral Solution

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 06/04/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Wockhardt is out of stock oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution until end of June 2023.
- Oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution from other manufacturers remains available but will not be able to support increased demand.
- Oxycodone 5mg and 10mg immediate release capsules remain available.
- Other liquid formulations of opioids, such as morphine, remain available.
- A number of Specials manufacturers are able to produce unlicensed oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral suspension (including sugar free formulations)
- Where the above options are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- review patients to determine if oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution is still the most suitable therapy;
- consider prescribing immediate release oxycodone capsules for patients who can swallow solid dosage forms and are on a regime comprising 5mg or 10mg doses, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose (see Supporting information below);
- consider prescribing morphine-based products as an alternative agent, if clinically appropriate;
- reserve stock of oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution for patients where doses such as 2.5mg or 7.5mg cannot be made up easily with capsules and alternatives are not considered suitable;
- consider prescribing unlicensed oxycodone oral solution/suspension only where the immediate release capsules or other licensed opioid analgesics are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below); and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought on alternative pain management options from team who initiated oxycodone liquid.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Oxycodone is licensed for the treatment of moderate to severe pain in patients with cancer and post-operative pain, and for the treatment of severe pain requiring the use of a strong opioid. The usual starting dose for opioid naïve patients or patients presenting with severe pain uncontrolled by weaker opioids is 5mg, 4-6

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

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

hourly. The dose should then be carefully titrated, as frequently as once a day if necessary, to achieve pain relief. The capsules should be swallowed whole, and not chewed or crushed. There are no data on emptying out capsule contents (off label) to deliver a part dose or to administer to patients with swallowing difficulties.

Please refer to the links below

- [SmPC Oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution](#)
- [BNF: Opioid analgesics](#)
- [BNF Oxycodone](#)
- [Faculty of Pain Management: Long term prescribing of opioids](#)
- [Estimating dose equivalence from oral morphine to other opioids](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral solution (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Mawdsleys
- The following Specials manufacturers have currently confirmed they can manufacture oxycodone 5mg/5ml oral suspension (please note, there may be other companies that can also manufacture):
 - Eaststone
 - Rokshaw
- 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

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist, who will escalate to national teams if required.

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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2023/042

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.