



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/073

Reboxetine (Edronax®) 4mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 31/07/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Reboxetine (Edronax®) 4mg tablets are out of stock from mid-August until the end of October 2023.
- Unlicensed imported stock is available (see details below)
- If local stock holding, imported stock and mutual aid cannot meet anticipated demand until the re-supply date, alternative antidepressants with noradrenergic properties should be considered.

Actions Required

Clinicians in primary and secondary care:

- Should not initiate new patients on reboxetine (Edronax®) 4mg tablets until the shortage has resolved.
- Use unlicensed imports (see details below) where available until the resupply date

Or where an import is not readily available

- In secondary care, where there are insufficient stocks, request mutual aid, facilitated by Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist.
- In primary care, if stock is unavailable, consider referring the patient back to the initiating hospital specialist where stock may still be available. This should be checked before a referral is made.
- If there are insufficient supplies, prescribers in primary and secondary care should consider switching to an alternative antidepressant (with noradrenergic properties) such as lofepramine or venlafaxine, if not contra-indicated or previously tried.
- If stopping or switching to alternative treatment, national guidance on tapering (see below) should be followed, involving the patient so that a shared decision can be reached on the preferred treatment option.

Supporting information

Reboxetine, a noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor, is licensed for the acute treatment of depressive illness/major depression and for maintaining clinical improvement in patients initially responding to treatment.

Stopping medication

If it is considered appropriate to stop antidepressants, the Royal College of Psychiatrists have issued [guidance](#) on stopping antidepressants

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

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

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importer has confirmed they can source unlicensed reboxetine 4mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Target Healthcare
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- 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),

Please see the following links for further information:

- [BNF: Reboxetine](#)
- [SmPC: Edronax 4mg Tablets](#)
- [NICE \(NG15\): Medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: safe prescribing and withdrawal management for adults](#)

Enquiries

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