



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/108

Fluticasone 400microgram/unit dose nasal drops

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 28/11/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Flixonase Nasal Drops are being discontinued, with stock exhausted by the end of December 2023.
- Generic fluticasone 400microgram/unit dose nasal drops (Aspire Pharma) are in limited supply until early February 2024.
- Alternative steroid nasal drops and sprays remain available and can support increased demand.
- Unlicensed supplies of fluticasone 400microgram nasal drops may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supply of fluticasone 400microgram/unit dose nasal drops prescribers should:

- check with pharmacy for availability of generic fluticasone propionate 400 micrograms (1mg/ml) nasal drops suspension (Aspire Pharma); and where unavailable, consider:
 - prescribing an alternative steroid nasal drop or spray for the treatment of nasal polyps, ensuring the patient is counselled on use and is not intolerant to any of the excipients;
 - prescribing other steroid formulations off-label for oral ulceration and inflammation, in line with local guidance; and
- consider prescribing unlicensed products only where abovementioned options are not available/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).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Fluticasone nasal drops are licensed for the regular treatment of nasal polyps and associated symptoms of nasal obstruction.

Betamethasone 0.1% nose drops which are indicated in non-infected inflammatory conditions of the nose remain available and can support an uplift in demand.

Mometasone 50micrograms/dose nasal spray is indicated for the treatment of the symptoms of seasonal allergic or perennial rhinitis in adults and children 3 years of age and older, and for the treatment of nasal polyps in adults. It remains available but would be unable to support an uplift in demand at present.

They are also used off-label for oral ulceration and inflammation, other steroid formulations have been used off-label (soluble tabs, multi dose inhaler, nebulas, ointment, nasal spray).

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

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

[Links to further information](#)

[SmPC Fluticasone 400microgram/unit dose nasal drops](#)

[BNF Fluticasone](#)

[SmPC Betamethasone 0.1% ear/eye/nose drops](#)

[BNF Betamethasone](#)

[SmPC Mometasone 50micrograms/dose nasal spray](#)

[BNF Mometasone furoate](#)

[Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports](#)

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed fluticasone propionate 400microgram nasal drops (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Mawdsleys

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),

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:

- Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
 - Fluticasone propionate 400microgram nasal drops (imported)
- Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: “**special order**”.

Enquiries

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