



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/109

Dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 28/11/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution is in short supply until early January 2024.
- Dicycloverine 10mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
- Alternative liquid formulations of antispasmodics remain available.
- Unlicensed supplies of dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians/prescribers should:

- review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
- review if patients are able to swallow solid dosage forms and consider prescribing dicycloverine 10mg tablets if appropriate; and
- consider prescribing a liquid formation of an alternative antispasmodic for patients unable to swallow solid dosage forms (see supporting information below).

In patients unable to swallow solid dosage forms for whom dicycloverine liquid is determined to be the most appropriate therapy:

- consider prescribing dicycloverine 10mg tablets and counsel patients on crushing and mixing with water for administration (off-label); and
- if the above option is not considered appropriate, consider prescribing unlicensed dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution. 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).

Secondary Care only:

- where there is insufficient stock, and where clinical judgement determines that a patient should remain on dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution, liaise with pharmacy services to request mutual aid, facilitated by their Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist.

*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

Dicycloverine is an anticholinergic antispasmodic, licensed for the treatment of functional conditions involving smooth muscle spasm of the gastrointestinal tract. The liquid is licensed for use in patients from age 6 months and above. There are no other oral anticholinergic antispasmodics available in a liquid formulation. NEWT guidelines suggest dicycloverine tablets may be crushed and mixed with water for administration (off-label manipulation).

Other antispasmodics available as a liquid include:

- Mebeverine 50mg/5ml sugar free oral suspension (licensed for use from age 10 years and above but BNFC includes off-label use from 3 years and above)
- Peppermint water BP 1973 (licensed for use from age 12 years and above, but off-label use in paediatric practice from age 3 months and above, consult local formulary)

Please refer to the links below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • SmPC: Dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution | • SmPC: Peppermint water BP 1973 |
| • SmPC: Dicycloverine 10mg tablets | • BNFC: Antispasmodics |
| • SmPC: Mebeverine 50mg/5ml sugar free oral suspension | • BNF: Antispasmodics |
| | • CKS: Irritable bowel syndrome-antispasmodic drugs |

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed products

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical
- 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:
 - Dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution (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

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

REGION	Lead RPPS	Email	Associate RPPS	Email
Midlands	Andi Swain	andi.swain@nhs.net	Diptyka Hart	Diptyka.Hart@uhb.nhs.uk
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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2023/109

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.