



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/112

Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral solution sugar free

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 05/12/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral solution sugar free is out of stock until February 2024.
- Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral suspension is not currently marketed in the UK.
- Diazepam tablets remain available.
- Unlicensed diazepam 2mg/5ml oral suspension (sugar free) 'Specials' can be sourced.

Actions Required

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

- review patients to determine if this is still the most appropriate therapy;
- reserve remaining supplies of diazepam 2mg/5ml oral solution sugar free for paediatric patients where possible;
- consider prescribing diazepam tablets for patients able to swallow solid dosage forms, halving the tablets if needed to make up the dose;
- consider crushing and dispersing tablets in water in patients unable to swallow tablets (off-label manipulation); and
- where the above options are not deemed appropriate, consider prescribing unlicensed diazepam 2mg/5ml oral suspension (sugar free) from a Specials manufacturer (see supporting information below). Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary.

Supporting information

Most diazepam tablets are described as having a break line, but halving to administer a part dose would be an off-label manipulation, unless the SmPC explicitly states the tablet can be divided into equal doses.

According to the Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes resource, diazepam tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water (off-label manipulation).

*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 medicines

The following Specials manufacturers have confirmed they can manufacture diazepam 2mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (please note, there may be other companies):

- IPS Pharma
- Lexon
- Nova Laboratories
- PCCA Specials
- Rokshaw Laboratories
- Target Healthcare

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)

Further information

[BNF Diazepam](#)

[SmPC Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral solution sugar free](#)

Enquiries

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