



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/118

Testosterone (Testim®) 50mg/5g transdermal gel unit dose tubes

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 21/12/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Testosterone (Testim®) 50mg/5g transdermal gel unit dose tubes are being discontinued with stock exhausted by the end of December 2023.
- Alternative testosterone preparations (Tostran®, Testavan® and Testogel®) remain available and will be able to support increased demand.

## Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
- consider prescribing an alternative testosterone gel, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose and how to administer it (see Supporting information below); and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

#### **Licensed use of topical testosterone:**

Testosterone replacement therapy for male hypogonadism when testosterone deficiency has been confirmed by clinical features and biochemical tests.

#### **Off label use:**

Testosterone gel is used in women with decreased libido in the menopause.

#### **Switching products**

Please refer to table 1 to select an alternative product based on the current dose of testosterone that the patient is receiving and in line with the maximum licensed dose of the product selected. There will be slight differences in the dose of testosterone when switched and the dose may need to be titrated based on testosterone levels, and signs and symptoms related to testosterone deficiency.

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

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

**Table 1: Testosterone content of topical products**

| Testim® 50mg/5g transdermal gel unit dose tubes – <b>To be discontinued</b> |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| No. tubes                                                                   | Testosterone dose (mg) |
| 1 tube                                                                      | 50                     |
| 2 tubes                                                                     | 100                    |

| Tostran® 2% gel pump – <b>In stock with supplier</b> |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| No. Pump actuations (depressions)                    | Testosterone dose (mg) |
| 1                                                    | 10                     |
| 2                                                    | 20                     |
| 4                                                    | 40                     |
| 6                                                    | 60                     |
| 8                                                    | 80                     |

| Testogel® 16.2mg/g pump – <b>In stock with supplier</b> |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| No. Pump actuations (depressions)                       | Testosterone dose (mg) |
| 1                                                       | 20.25                  |
| 2                                                       | 40.5                   |
| 3                                                       | 60.75                  |
| 4                                                       | 81                     |

| Testogel® 40.5mg/2.5g gel sachets – <b>In stock with supplier</b> |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| No. Sachets                                                       | Testosterone dose (mg) |
| 1/2 sachet ( <i>difficult to administer correctly</i> )           | 20.25                  |
| 1 sachet                                                          | 40.5                   |
| 2 sachets                                                         | 81                     |

| Testavan® 23mg/1.15g pump – <b>In stock with supplier</b> |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| No. Pump actuations (depressions)                         | Testosterone dose (mg) |
| 1                                                         | 23                     |
| 2                                                         | 46                     |
| 3                                                         | 69                     |

Please refer to the links below for further information:

[SmPC Testim 50mg/5g transdermal gel unit dose tubes](#)

[SmPC Testavan 23mg/1.15g pump](#)

[SmPC Testogel 16.2mg/g pump](#)

[SmPC Testogel 40.5mg/2.5g gel sachets](#)

[SmPC Tostran 2% gel pump](#)

[BNF: Testosterone](#)

[British Menopause Society: Testosterone replacement in menopause](#)

## Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).