



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/119

Estradiol (Estring®) 7.5micrograms/24hours vaginal delivery system

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 21/12/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Estring® 7.5micrograms/24hours vaginal delivery system is out of stock until February 2024, with intermittent availability expected until November 2024.
- Alternative estradiol and estriol vaginal products remain available.

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 suitable therapy; and
- consider prescribing an alternative estradiol or estriol vaginal product taking into account current availability and patient preferences. Ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on how to administer the treatment and new dosing schedule (see supporting information below).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Estring® is licensed for the treatment of atrophic vaginitis (due to oestrogen deficiency) in postmenopausal women. Each ring releases estradiol at an average amount of 7.5 microgram per 24 hours, over a period of 90 days. Once inserted it is left in the vagina continuously for 90 days and replaced by a new ring as appropriate. The maximum recommended duration of continuous therapy is two years.

The following oestrogen products for vaginal application are also licensed for the treatment of vaginal atrophy due to oestrogen deficiency in postmenopausal women but have a more frequent dosing schedule. Women already stabilised on Estring can be put onto the twice weekly maintenance dose of the selected product. Women who are still symptomatic on Estring should start with the induction regimen as set out in the SmPC for that product.

*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- Alternative estradiol or estriol preparations

Alternative estradiol or estriol preparations	Active ingredient	Dose	Availability
Vagirux® vaginal tablet	Estradiol 10microgram	One vaginal tablet daily for 2 weeks followed by maintenance dose of One vaginal tablet twice a week.	Can support increased demand.
Vagifem® vaginal tablet*			
Estradiol 10microgram vaginal tablet			
Imvaggis® pessary	Estriol 30microgram	One pessary daily for first 3 weeks followed by maintenance dose of one pessary twice a week.	Can support increased demand.
Estriol 0.01% cream	Estriol 100microgram per 1gram	One applicator full per day until restoration of vaginal mucosa has been achieved then maintenance dose of one applicator full twice a week.	Can support increased demand.
Estriol 0.1% Cream	Estriol 1000microgram per 1gram	1 application per day for the first weeks (maximally 4 weeks), followed by a gradual reduction, based on relief of symptoms, until a maintenance dosage (e.g. 1 application twice a week) is reached.	Can support increased demand.

* Vagifem® can only support a partial increase in demand.

Links to further information

[Vaginal and vulval conditions treatment summary – BNF](#)

[SPC Estring® 7.5 microgram/24 hours vaginal delivery system](#)

[SPC for Vagifem, Vagirux or estradiol 10microgram vaginal tablets](#)

[SPC Imvaggis® 0.03mg pessaries](#)

[SPC estriol 1mg/g cream](#)

[SPC estriol 0.01% cream](#)

Enquiries

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