



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/121

Phosphate Sandoz® (sodium dihydrogen phosphate anhydrous 1.936g) effervescent tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 22/12/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Phosphate Sandoz® effervescent tablets are in limited supply until late March 2024.
- Unlicensed supplies of sodium acid (dihydrogen) phosphate 1mmol in 1ml oral solution from Specials manufacturers may be sourced.
- Unlicensed imports of Phosphate Phebra® (16.1mmol phosphate) effervescent tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.
- Polyfusor phosphates infusion 500ml (50mmol phosphate, 81mmol sodium, 9.5mmol potassium in 500mL) remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
- Sodium glycerophosphate 4.32g/20ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials/ampoules (20mmol phosphate and 40mmol sodium per 20ml) remain available and can support a partial uplift in demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians in primary and secondary care should:

- review patients for appropriateness of ongoing therapy;
- consider quantity to be supplied (pack size 20 tablets per tube) when prescribing existing supply of Phosphate Sandoz® to reduce wastage. Pharmacy teams should query any scripts that could potentially have the dose regimen adjusted to reduce wastage;
- consider dietary replacement, with advice from a dietician if required;
- consider prescribing unlicensed sodium acid (dihydrogen) phosphate 1mmol in 1ml oral solution from Specials manufacturers or unlicensed imports of Phosphate Phebra® (16.1mmol phosphate) effervescent tablets. Ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose (and volume) required. 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);
- If the above options are not considered appropriate, primary care clinicians should seek advice from specialists on management options.

Secondary care only

- NHS provider Trust pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to review local stock holdings and conservatively order stock of Phosphate Sandoz® in line with projected demand until the supply issue is resolved.
- If Phosphate Sandoz® is not available, consider use of unlicensed oral preparations as detailed above or appropriateness of intravenous phosphate replacement in line with local guidelines.

*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

Phosphate Sandoz® is licensed for treatment of:

- hypercalcaemia associated with such conditions as hyperparathyroidism, multiple myeloma and malignancy; and
- hypophosphataemia associated with vitamin D resistant rickets and vitamin D resistant hypophosphataemic osteomalacia.

The summary of product characteristics states to store Phosphate Sandoz® in the original tube, kept tightly closed in order to protect from moisture. The tablets are highly hygroscopic. The tube contains an internal desiccant and is designed to protect the medicines from moisture. Alturix have not conducted tests on storage in any other containers. Any decision taken locally to pack down is outside the terms of the medicine's marketing authorisation and should only be made following a risk/benefit assessment that identifies risk mitigation measures.

Alternative management options:

- The licensed dose range for Phosphate Sandoz® is 2 to 6 tablets daily in 2 to 4 divided doses. Switching between alternative oral phosphate supplements is on a mmol per mmol basis so monitoring requirements are not expected to change.
- The unlicensed oral solutions may differ in shelf life and storage requirements once opened.
- For severe phosphate deficiency intravenous replacement as per local guidelines, repeated over several days according to serum phosphate levels, may be required.

Links to further information

- [SmPC: Phosphate Sandoz effervescent tablets](#)
- [BNF: Phosphate imbalance](#)
- [BNF: Phosphate](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports and Specials.

The following specialist importer have confirmed they can source unlicensed Phosphate Phebra® (16.1mmol phosphate) effervescent tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Smartway

The following Specials manufacturer have confirmed they can supply unlicensed sodium acid (dihydrogen) phosphate 1mmol in 1ml oral solution (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- East-Stone
- IPS Pharma
- Nova Laboratories Ltd
- Quantum Pharma

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),

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/2023/121

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.