



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/025

Ranitidine: All formulations update to SDA/2019/005 (U2)

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 06/05/2020

## Summary:

- Ranitidine 50mg/2ml injection is anticipated to be unavailable from the end of May 2020 until further notice.
- Ranitidine film-coated tablets, effervescent tablets and oral solution continue to remain unavailable with no date for resupply.
- All formulations of ranitidine are affected due to on-going regulatory investigations into the presence of the contaminant, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), in samples of ranitidine active substance
- Clinical advice on alternatives of ranitidine preparations for adults and children has been shared in the previous supply disruption alert SDA/2019/005 (U2), (see table 1 and 2 below).

## Actions Required

All clinicians in primary and secondary care who prescribe ranitidine preparations should consider the following advice to manage patients;

- Ranitidine 50mg/2ml injection
  - if local supplies are insufficient, review the previous disruption [alert](#), for advice on switching to alternative agents as appropriate (see Table 1 and 2 below for further information)
- Oral ranitidine preparations
  - continue to follow guidance on switching, as per UKMi advice mentioned in the previous [alert SDA/2019/005 \(U2\)](#)

## Supporting Information

At present, in Europe all suppliers of ranitidine's active ingredient have had their Certificate of Suitability (CEP) suspended. Therefore, until regulatory investigations are complete, no further supplies of ranitidine products can be manufactured. Further information can be found [here](#).

The following presentations of ranitidine are affected:

- Ranitidine 75mg, 150mg and 300mg tablets
- Ranitidine 150mg and 300mg effervescent tablets
- Ranitidine 150mg/5ml and 75mg/5ml oral solution
- Ranitidine 50mg/2ml injection.

### Ranitidine injection;

- There are three suppliers of IV ranitidine; Alliance Healthcare, Advanz Pharma and GSK
- Alliance healthcare and Advanz Pharma have advised they have limited stocks available and anticipate being out of stock by the end of May 2020.
- GSK (Zantac 50mg/2ml injection) are also experiencing long term out of stock.
- All manufacturers are unable to advise on a re-supply date, due to ongoing testing required by the MHRA and EMA affecting all API supplies.
- There are currently sufficient stocks of alternative IV proton-pump inhibitors (PPI's) to support an increased demand as recommended by UKMi (see Table 1 and 2 below)

### Ranitidine oral products;

- There has been no change to the supply situation or regulatory position on oral ranitidine products since the previous update [SDA/2019/005 \(U2\)](#)
- Supplies of alternatives PPIs remain readily available.
- There are currently limited stocks of some H2 receptor antagonists available, so only prescribe these products as an alternative to ranitidine in patients in whom PPI's are unsuitable. Latest supply position as below;

Drug, strength, formulation	Supplier	Stock Availability	Additional information
Famotidine 20mg tablets	Tillomed	Limited Stock	No confirmed re-supply date
	Teva	Limited Stock	Further supplies expected May 2020
Famotidine 40mg tablets	Tillomed	Limited Stock	No confirmed re-supply date
	Teva	Limited Stock	Further stock expected June 2020
Cimetidine 200mg tablets	Ennogen	In Stock	Further supplies not due until March 2021
	Medreich	Out of Stock	No confirmed re-supply date
Cimetidine 400mg tablets	Ennogen	Limited Stocks	Further supplies not due until March 2021
	Medreich	Out of Stock	No confirmed re-supply date
Cimetidine 800mg tablets	Ennogen	In Stock	Further supplies not due until March 2021
	Medreich	Out of Stock	No confirmed re-supply date
Nizatidine 150mg tablets	Mylan	Out of Stock	Due late 2020
	Medreich	Long term out of Stock	No confirmed re-supply date
Nizatidine 300mg tablets	Mylan	Out of Stock	Due late 2020
	Medreich	Long term out of Stock	No confirmed re-supply date

- Prior to prescribing, clinicians should liaise with their pharmacists to understand local stock availability (including resupply dates) of clinical alternatives

### Alternative preparations;

- UKMi have produced a summary of suitable clinical alternatives;
  - Alternative oral products for the main indications of ranitidine in adults (see Table 1 below)
  - Alternative oral acid suppressants for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease in children (see Table 2 below)

## Enquiries

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



**Table 1: Alternative oral products for the main indications of ranitidine in adults:**

Before switching to another agent, review if patients still require treatment or could be stepped down to an antacid or alginate.

Acid suppressant	Formulation	GU/DU treatment	GU/DU prophylaxis	GORD	NSAID associated GU/DU treatment/prophylaxis	Comments
<b>Proton pump inhibitors</b>						
<b>Omeprazole*</b>	Capsules, tablets and dispersible tablets: 10mg,20mg,40mg  Injection 40mg	20-40mg OD	10-40mg OD (DU)  20-40mg OD (GU)	20-40mg OD (treatment)  10-40mg OD (long term management after healed reflux oesophagitis)  10-20mg OD symptomatic GORD	20mg OD (prevention and treatment)	<i>*not to be prescribed with clopidogrel due to risk of reducing its antiplatelet efficacy</i>  Losec MUPS® not licensed for use via enteral feeding tubes, however there is extensive experience of using via this route in practice.
<b>Lansoprazole</b>	Capsules and dispersible tablets: 15 and 30mg	30mg OD	UL (15-30mg OD) ¥	30mg OD (treatment) 15-30mg (prevention)  15-30mg OD (symptomatic GORD)	30mg OD (treatment)  15-30mg (prevention)	Orodispersible tablets licensed for administration via nasogastric (NG) tubes.
<b>Pantoprazole</b>	Tablets 20 and 40mg  Injection 40mg	40-80mg OD	UL (20-40mg OD) ¥	20mg OD symptomatic GORD  20-40mg OD long term management and prevention of relapse	20mg OD (prevention)	

\*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link: [A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages.](#)

Acid suppressant	Formulation	GU/DU treatment	GU/DU prophylaxis	GORD	NSAID associated GU/DU treatment/prophylaxis	Comments
<b>Proton pump inhibitors (continued)</b>						
<b>Esomeprazole*</b>	Tablets, capsules 20 and 40 Granules 10mg Injection 40mg	UL (20-40mg OD) ¥	UL (20-40mg OD) ¥	40mg OD (treatment)  20mg OD (prevention and symptomatic treatment)	20mg OD (prevention and treatment)	<i>*not to be prescribed with clopidogrel due to risk of reducing its antiplatelet efficacy</i>  Granules are licensed for administration via NG or gastric tubes.
<b>Rabeprazole</b>	Tablets 10 and 20mg	20mg OD	UL (10-20mg OD) ¥	20mg OD (treatment)  10-20mg long term maintenance  10mg OD symptomatic GORD	UL	
<b>H2-receptor antagonists</b>						
<b>Nizatidine</b>	Capsules 150mg	150mg BD or 300mg OD	150mg OD	150mg-300mg bd	150mg BD or 300mg OD (treatment)	
<b>Famotidine</b>	Tablets 20mg and 40mg	40mg OD	DU 20mg OD	UL	UL	
<b>Cimetidine*</b>	Tablets 200, 400 and 800mg Liquid 200mg/5mL	400mg BD OR 800mg ON (up to 400mg QDS)	400mg ON up to BD	400mg QDS	UL	No data on crushing tablets  <i>*caution as CYP P450 inhibitor; care with drug interactions- consult SPC</i>

Key:, GU: gastric ulcer, DU: duodenal ulcer; PU: peptic ulcer; GORD: gastroesophageal reflux disease, UL: unlicensed

¥ Based on PPI dose equivalence table for severe oesophagitis in NICE guideline (CG184) update (2014): <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg184/chapter/Appendix-A->



**Table 2: Alternative oral acid suppressants for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease in children [Refer to BNFC or local paediatric formulary for other indications/off label use]**

Before switching to another agent, review if patients still require acid suppression or if could be stepped down to an antacid

Acid suppressant	Formulation	Licensed age group	Dose	Comments
<b>Proton pump inhibitors</b>				
<b>Omeprazole</b>	Capsules, tablets and dispersible tablets: 10mg,20mg,40mg  <i>In the absence of the licensed liquid being available, consider using an unlicensed liquid (manufactured special). However, there is only limited evidence of efficacy.</i>	> 1 year and ≥ 10 kg	<u>&lt;2.5kg</u> 0.7mg-1.4mg/kg to 3mg/kg/day  <u>2.5 – 7kg</u> 5mg to 3mg/kg/day (max10mg)  <u>7 - 15kg</u> 10mg to 20mg OD  <u>&gt;15kg</u> 20mg to 40mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Losec MUPS® tablets may be dispersed in water (do not crush tablet) for oral liquid administration. Halve 10mg tablet before dispersing for 5mg dose.</li> <li>• Losec MUPS® not licensed for use via enteral feeding tubes, however there is extensive experience of using this route in practice (NB: granules ~ 0.5mm diameter and have tendency to block fine-bore feeding tubes [<math>&lt;8Fr</math>])</li> <li>• Esomeprazole granules are licensed for administration down tubes <math>\geq 6Fr</math>,</li> <li>• <i>Liquid may be required in age&lt;1 year with nasogastric (NG) or gastric tubes &lt; 8 Fr or in patients intolerant/allergic to excipients in esomeprazole granules.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>* Not to be prescribed with clopidogrel due to risk of reducing its antiplatelet efficacy</i></p>
<b>Esomeprazole</b>	Tablets, capsules, 20 and 40mg	≥12 years	20-40mg OD	Granules licensed for administration via enteral tube $\geq 6 Fr$
	10 mg gastro-resistant granules for oral suspension	1-11 years	Weight $\geq 10$ - $<20$ kg:10mg OD Weight $\geq 20$ kg: 10-20mg OD	<i>* Not to be prescribed with clopidogrel due to risk of reducing its antiplatelet efficacy</i>
<b>Pantoprazole</b>	Tablets 20 and 40mg	≥12 years	20 mg OD	
<b>Lansoprazole</b>	Capsules and dispersible tablets: 15 and 30mg	No paediatric licence but used off label in this population	Off label use: <u>Infant 2.5kg – 5kg</u> 3.75mg (1/4 of a 15mg tablet) OD  <u>5 – 10kg</u> 7.5mg (1/2 a 15mg tablet) OD  <u>10 - 30kg</u> 15mg OD	<u>Dispersible tablets</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excipients include aspartame.</li> <li>• Dose should be rounded up or down to nearest solid dosage form i.e. half or quarter of tablet.</li> <li>• Halve or quarter tablet before dispersing in water for oral liquid administration. Stir thoroughly before administration.</li> <li>• Licensed for administration via NG tube (can be dispersed in 10mL water and flushed down tube <math>&gt; 8Fr</math>).</li> </ul>

\*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link: [A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages.](#)

			>30kg 30mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For fine-bore tubes &lt;8Fr, dissolve contents of capsule in 8.4% sodium bicarbonate before administration).</li> <li>Lansoprazole dispersible tablets are generally easier to use than omeprazole. When using feeding tubes of gauge under 8Fr in patients over 2.5kg.</li> </ul>
Acid suppressant	Formulation	Licensed age group	Dose	Comments
<b>Proton pump inhibitors (cont'd)</b>				
<b>Rabeprazole</b>	Tablets 10mg and 20mg	No paediatric licence	<u>Off label use</u> 1-11 years; <15kg: 5mg OD  ≥15kg: 10mg OD  ≥12 years: 20mg OD	Crushing is not recommended. Not suitable for enteral tube administration
<b>H2-receptor antagonists</b>				
<b>Cimetidine</b>	Tablets 200mg, 400mg and 800mg  Liquid 200mg/5mL	>1year	<u>&gt;1 year</u> 25-30mg/kg per day in divided doses  Use in age< 1 year not fully evaluated; 20mg/kg/day in divided doses has been used	No data on crushing tablets.  <i>Caution as CYP P450 inhibitor; care with drug interactions-consult SPC</i>
<b>Nizatidine</b>	Capsules 150mg	No paediatric licence	Off label use  <u>6 months to 11 years</u> 5-10mg/kg/day in 2 divided doses  <u>≥12 years</u> 150mg BD	Not suitable to be used via enteral feeding tubes, as whilst drug dissolves in water, excipients do not and may coat and block tube.
<b>Famotidine</b>	Tablets 20mg and 40mg	No paediatric licence	Off label use:  <u>1 to ≤3 months</u> 0.5mg/kg/dose OD  <u>≥3 months to &lt;1 year</u> 0.5mg/kg/dose BD  <u>1 to 16 years</u> 0.5mg/kg/dose BD (maximum 40mg dose)	Without crushing, tablets will disperse in water, in 2-5 minutes. This process can be quickened by crushing and mixing tablets with water for administration  No information available on giving resulting suspension via enteral feeding tubes.

**References:** SPCs, Handbook of Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes, The NEWT Guidelines for administration of medication to patients with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties, [Evelina London Paediatric Formulary](#), BNFC, Paediatric & Neonatal Dosage Handbook, 23<sup>rd</sup> ed

**Please note:** Any decision to prescribe off-label must take into account the relevant GMC guidance and NHS Trust governance procedures for unlicensed medicines. Prescribers are advised to pay particular attention to the risks associated with using unlicensed medicines or using a licensed medicine off-label.