Medicine Supply Notification

Paroxetine (Seroxat®) 20mg/10ml oral suspension

Tier 2 – medium impact*
Date of issue: 14/07/2022
Link: Medicines Supply Tool

Summary

- Paroxetine (Seroxat®) 20mg/10ml oral suspension will be discontinued in July 2022.
- There are limited supplies remaining.
- Paroxetine tablets and unlicensed specials of paroxetine 10mg/5ml oral suspension remain available and can support an uplift in demand.

Actions Required

All clinicians in primary and secondary care should:

- review existing patients and for whom discontinuation of treatment is being considered refer to NICE guidance on safe prescribing and withdrawal management using the suspension as part of an antidepressant withdrawal regimen, with advice sought from specialists, if needed (see supporting Information);
- not start any new patients on paroxetine (Seroxat®) 20mg/10ml oral suspension;
- review if patients can swallow solid dosage forms and switch to paroxetine tablets where appropriate, providing a tablet cutter if needed; or
- if patients cannot swallow a tablet whole, assess their ability to crush and disperse paroxetine tablets in water, and prescribe this if suitable (see supporting information); and
- review those patients in whom the above options are not appropriate for consideration of use of unlicensed specials of paroxetine 10mg/5ml oral suspensions.

Supporting Information

Please refer to the BNF and SmPCs for further information on alternative preparations:

- Paroxetine (Seroxat®) 20mg/10ml liquid - SmPC
- Paroxetine tablets - SmPC
- Paroxetine - BNF

Guidance on crushing paroxetine tablets

NEWT guidelines suggest that paroxetine tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration, however this would be an off-label use. The crushed tablets are bitter and have a slight local anaesthetic effect.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:
Please refer to NICE guidance on safe prescribing and withdrawal management

- Medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: safe prescribing and withdrawal management for adults

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed medicines

The following specials companies have confirmed they can manufacture paroxetine 10mg/5ml oral suspension (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Eaststone Specials
- Nova Laboratories
- Rokshaw Limited
- 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),

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative, prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:

- Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
  
  o Paroxetine 10mg/5ml oral suspension (special order)

- Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: “special order”.

Enquiries

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