



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2022/069

Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 11/08/2022

Summary

- Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules are currently in very limited supply and stocks are likely to be exhausted in the coming months. Further stock is anticipated in mid-March 2023.
- Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection/infusion (100mg x 1 pack with diluent and 100mg x 10 pack without diluent) remains available and can support an uplift in demand. (Note the difference in concentration after reconstitution (**50mg in 1ml**))

Actions Required

Healthcare professional involved in the prescribing, dispensing and administration of hydrocortisone sodium phosphate ampoules should;

- Reserve existing stock of the solution for injection for patients requiring hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/ml ampoules for use during an adrenal crisis.

Where supplies are unavailable and there is an urgent requirement for stock:

- Place direct orders by contacting Alliance Customer Services who will then pass the order to Advanz Pharma for approval (see supporting information).

Clinicians should:

- consider switching patients to hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for injection, noting the difference in concentration after reconstitution (**50mg in 1ml**);
- prescribe water for injection to reconstitute the powder for injection, if the product with diluent is unavailable; and
- ensure that parent/carers and/or patients who are self-administering hydrocortisone sodium succinate injection are aware of the additional reconstitution step, trained on how to do this, and advised of any adjustment in volume to be administered due to the different final concentration.

Pharmacists should:

- ensure wards, clinics, and A+Es are aware of any change in formulation and issue reconstitution advice as well as highlighting different concentration of reconstituted solution.
- ensure they receive a prescription for water for injection with hydrocortisone sodium succinate powder for injection, unless patient has supply at home, or the product with diluent is available.

Supporting Information

Clinical information

- Each vial of the powder contains the equivalent of 100 mg hydrocortisone as the sodium succinate salt, which is usually reconstituted with 2ml of sterile water for injection.
- It should be noted that the concentration of the hydrocortisone sodium phosphate solution for injection

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

is **100 mg in 1ml** while that of the solution resulting from reconstituting the hydrocortisone sodium succinate powder for injection is **50 mg in 1ml**.

- Although not ideal to use a product requiring reconstitution during an adrenal crisis due to the delay in administering an immediate dose, a slight delay is not considered clinically significant.
- Nursing and medical staff need to be aware of this extra preparation step and different concentration of reconstituted solution should stock of hydrocortisone sodium phosphate solution for injection run out.
- It is imperative that parents who are used to administering the hydrocortisone sodium phosphate solution are taught how to reconstitute the hydrocortisone sodium succinate vial and administer correct dose.

How to order stock from Advanz Pharma

Healthcare professionals will need to contact Alliance Customer Services to place an order which will then be passed to Advanz Pharma for approval. Normal Alliance cut off times will apply when ordering stock, e.g. ordering in the morning, stock can be delivered by the afternoon on the same day, if orders are made at a later time, Alliance will deliver the medicine on the next working day.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact:

Alliance Customer Services number: 0330 100 0448

Advanz Pharma email address: customercare@advanzpharma.com/peter.curtis@advanzpharma.com

Advanz Pharma Customer services number: 0208 588 9441

Resources for patients

The Addison's Disease Self-Help Group has produced information on how to give an emergency injection of hydrocortisone, including the powder for reconstitution:

- Videos: <https://www.addisonsdisease.org.uk/the-emergency-injection-for-the-treatment-of-adrenal-crisis>
- Leaflet: [ADD20.08.EIS-Solu-Cortref-250x170mm.indd \(addisonsdisease.org.uk\)](#)

Great Ormond Street Hospital has produced a leaflet:

<https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/medical-information/medicines-information/how-give-emergency-injection-hydrocortisone-hydrocortisone-sodium-phosphate-100mg/ml>

Please click the following links for further information:

[SmPC: Hydrocortisone 100mg/ml solution for injection](#)

[SmPC: Hydrocortisone 100 mg Powder for Solution for Injection/Infusion](#)

Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist, who will escalate to national teams if required.

REGION	Full Name	Email
Midlands	Andi Swain (East Midlands)	andi.swain@nhs.net
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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2022/069.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.