



UPDATE:

Update to communications issued 16th February 2023.
Material updates are shown in bold.

Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/020U

Paracetamol 120mg and 240mg suppositories

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 20/03/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Paracetamol 120mg suppositories have been out of stock since mid-February.
- A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) for paracetamol 120mg suppositories was issued on 16 February.2023. **Paracetamol 240mg suppositories are now also out of stock.**
- **A Serious Shortage Protocol for paracetamol 240mg suppositories was issued on 17 March 2023.** Further stock of both strengths is expected in early May 2023.
- Paracetamol 125mg **and 250mg** suppositories remain available and can support a full uplift in demand.

Actions Required

For secondary care

- Clinicians in secondary care should consider prescribing paracetamol 125mg **or 250mg** suppositories during this time and counsel patients regarding the change in strength where the patient may have been expecting 120mg **or 240mg** suppositories **respectively**

For community pharmacists

- when presented with a prescription of paracetamol for 120mg **or 240mg** suppositories, community pharmacists may supply paracetamol 125mg **or 250mg** suppositories **respectively** in accordance with the appropriate SSP for eligible patients.
- If the patient is deemed ineligible or does not consent to receive an alternative product via the SSP, they should be promptly referred back to their clinician for advice on alternative treatment options.

For primary care prescribers

- consider prescribing paracetamol 125mg **or 250mg** suppositories, counselling patients regarding the difference in strength at the point of prescribing; or
- consider prescribing a suitable alternative medicine.

*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

- The dose difference between paracetamol 120mg and 125mg suppositories is negligible in context of the overall dosing schedule.
- **The dose difference between paracetamol 240mg and 250mg suppositories is negligible in context of the overall dosing schedule.**
- Based on the BNFC dosing instructions for paracetamol a switch from paracetamol 120mg **or 250mg** suppositories to 125mg **or 250mg** suppositories **respectively**, has no clinical or licensing concerns.

Please see the following links for further information:

- Please see the link for further information on the [paracetamol 120mg suppositories SSP](#)
- **Please see the link for further information on the [paracetamol 240mg suppositories SSP](#)**
- BNFC - Paracetamol
- SmPC Paracetamol 125mg suppository- Amdeepcha Ltd
- **SmPC Alvedon® 250mg suppository - Esteve Pharmaceuticals**
- **SmPC paracetamol 250mg suppository – Amdeepcha [Ltd](#)**

Enquiries

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