



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/084

Estradiol valerate/medroxyprogesterone acetate (Indivina®) 1mg/5mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 14/09/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Estradiol valerate/medroxyprogesterone acetate (Indivina®) 1mg/5mg tablets are out of stock until w/c 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- Alternative continuous combined hormone replacement therapies (HRT) containing estradiol 1mg but a different progesterone component remain available and will be able to support increased demand.
- Estradiol valerate/medroxyprogesterone acetate (Indivina®) 1mg/2.5mg tablets remain available but cannot support uplift in demand.
- Where alternatives are not suitable, unlicensed supplies may be sourced, lead times vary.

## Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate patients on Indivina® 1mg/5mg tablets;
- consider prescribing an alternative continuous combined HRT product containing estradiol 1mg but a different progestogen component to Indivina®, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose (see Supporting Information below);
- consider prescribing unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. 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).

## Supporting Information

### Clinical Information

The British Menopause Society (BMS) provides guidance from clinical experts on switching to alternative continuous combined HRT products. In this, BMS does acknowledge "The equivalence data included in this practical guide were based on a combination of pharmacokinetics, clinical trials and clinical experience. The dose equivalents included are subject to significant individual variations in absorption and metabolism." When switching patients to an alternative HRT product, prescribers will consider symptom control, side

\*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

effect profiles, breakthrough bleeds etc. The BMS also provides [advice on managing side effects of oestrogen and progestogens](#) where the options for progestogen side effects are: change the type of progestogen, reduce the dose if available, change the route of administration, alter the duration.

**Table 1:** Alternative oral continuous combined hormone replacement therapies

Product	Active ingredients
Femoston Conti® tablets	Estradiol 1mg/ Dydrogesterone 5mg
Kliovance tablets®	Estradiol 1mg/ Norethisterone 500mcg
Bijuve capsules®	Estradiol 1mg / Progesterone 100 mg

### Links to further information:

[British Menopause Society HRT preparations and equivalent alternatives](#)  
[HRT- Practical Prescribing](#)

### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed Indivina 1mg/2.5mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Alium
  - Target
- 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:
    - Estradiol valerate/medroxyprogesterone acetate 1mg/5mg tablets (imported)
  - 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](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk)