



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/107

Sodium fusidate (Fucidin[®]) 250mg tablets and fusidic acid (Fucidin[®]) 250mg/5ml oral suspension

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 12/11/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Sodium fusidate (Fucidin[®]) 250mg tablets will be discontinued from mid-January 2025.
- Fusidic acid (Fucidin[®]) 250mg/5ml oral suspension will be discontinued from late June 2025.
- If alternative antimicrobials are not considered suitable, specialist importers have sourced unlicensed products, lead times vary.

Actions Required

NHS provider Trust pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to review local prescribing guidance and consider:

- prescribing an alternative antimicrobial as appropriate depending on the indication and local prescribing guidelines, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to the active pharmaceutical ingredient or any of the excipients; or
- prescribing unlicensed sodium fusidate 250mg tablets or fucidic acid 250mg/5ml oral suspension, if this is considered the most appropriate option. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times vary (see supporting information below); and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from microbiology teams on management options.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Sodium fusidate/ fusidic acid is a narrow-spectrum antibacterial used to treat Staphylococcus aureus infections, usually as an add-on therapy (e.g. added to flucloxacillin or clindamycin regimen for osteomyelitis).

Links to further information

[SmPC: Fucidin[®] 250mg tablets](#)

[SmPC: Fucidin[®] 250mg/5ml oral suspension](#)

[BNF: Musculoskeletal system infections, antibacterial therapy](#)

[BNF: Fusidic acid](#)

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

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

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed sodium fusidate 250mg tablets and fusidic acid 250mg/5ml oral suspension (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Chemys
- Mawdsleys Unlicensed
- Target Healthcare

Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes.

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:

- Sodium fusidate 250mg tablets (imported)
- Fusidic acid 250mg/5ml oral suspension (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

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

| REGION | Lead RPPS | Email | Associate RPPS | Email |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|--|
| Midlands | Andi Swain | andi.swain@nhs.net | Dav Manku | Dav.Manku@uhb.nhs.uk |
| East of England | James Kent | james.kent@nhs.net | Tracy McMillan | tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net |
| London | Jackie Eastwood | jacqueline.eastwood@gstt.nhs.uk | Daniel Johnson | Daniel.Johnson@gstt.nhs.uk |
| North East and Yorkshire | David Allwood | davidallwood@nhs.net | Penny Daynes | penny.daynes@nhs.net |
| North West | Richard Bateman | richard.bateman@liverpoolft.nhs.uk | Andy Stewart | Andrew.stewart@liverpoolft.nhs.uk |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--|----------------|--|
| South East | Alison Ashman | Alison.Ashman@berkshire.nhs.uk | Melanie Renney | melanie.renney@berkshire.nhs.uk |
| South West | Danny Palmer | danny.palmer@uhbw.nhs.uk | Natalie Bryson | Natalie.Bryson@uhbw.nhs.uk |

Scotland

nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot

Wales

MedicinesShortages@gov.wales

Northern Ireland

RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net

All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2024/107

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.