



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/110

Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose) 0.1% eye drops

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 27/11/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose) 0.1% eye drops are out of stock until mid-March 2025.
- Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha) 0.1% eye drops 0.3ml unit dose preservative free remain in stock but are unable to support an increase in demand. These and other unit dose NSAID preparations should be reserved for patients who require preservative free eye drops.
- Ketorolac 0.5% eye drops remain available and can support increased demand.
- Bromfenac 0.9mg/ml eye drops and nepafenac 1mg/ml and 3mg/ml eye drops remain available but are unable to support an increase in demand.

Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate new patients on Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose 0.1% eye drops until the shortage has resolved;
- review patients prescribed Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose 0.1% eye drops and prescribe ketorolac 0.5% eye drops where appropriate, referring to local formulary/guidance, and treatment history, noting that this may lead to off-label prescribing in some instances (see Supporting information and refer to SmPC for dosing, contraindications, cautions and excipients); and
- where it is unclear if ketorolac eyedrops are interchangeable with diclofenac eye drops, or are not considered appropriate, specialist advice should be sought on management options.

Supporting information

Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose eye drops contain the NSAID diclofenac and are used for the treatment of pain and inflammation. Its product licence also covers use for inhibition of intraoperative miosis and seasonal allergic conjunctivitis.

The NSAID eyedrops have a common mechanism of action but vary in their licensed indications and what they are marketed for.

Ketorolac 0.5% eye drops are licensed for the prophylaxis and reduction of inflammation and associated symptoms following ocular surgery in adults.

[Links to further information](#)

[SmPC Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose](#)
[SmPC Voltarol® Ophtha Unit Doses](#)

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

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

[SmPC Ketorolac trometamol 0.5% eye drops](#)
[BNF Diclofenac sodium](#)
[BNF Eye, allergy and inflammation](#)
[NICE CKS Conjunctivitis – allergic](#)

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/2024/110.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.