



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2025/004

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

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 20/01/2025

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Hydrocortisone **sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution** for injection ampoules are in limited supply with stock exhaustion anticipated by late March 2025; anticipated resupply is May 2026.
- Hydrocortisone **sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution** for injection/infusion remains available and can support an increase in demand. After reconstitution with 2ml diluent, the final concentration is approximately **50mg/ml**.

Actions Required

NHS provider Trust pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to:

- reserve existing stock of the solution for injection for patients requiring hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/ml ampoules for use during an adrenal crisis. Note: this stock has an expiry of June 2025.

Where stocks have been exhausted, prescribers should:

- consider switching patients to hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for injection, taking into account, the indication, the additional reconstitution step, and particularly, the difference in concentration after reconstitution (**50mg in 1ml**) (see Supporting Information);
- ensure sufficient water for injection to reconstitute the powder for injection is prescribed, if the product with diluent is unavailable (see Supporting Information); and
- highlight to patients and/or parents who are administering hydrocortisone sodium succinate injection the formulation change and additional reconstitution step, counsel and signpost to training materials on how to do this (see Supporting Information), advise them of the difference in concentration of the reconstituted solution (50mg in 1 ml), and volume to be administered following reconstitution.

Pharmacists should ensure:

- wards, clinics, and emergency departments are aware of any change in formulation and issue reconstitution advice, highlighting difference in concentration of the reconstituted solution; and
- prescription for hydrocortisone sodium succinate powder for injection also includes water for injection, unless the product with diluent is prescribed (see Supporting Information).

*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

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

Licensed for intravenous, intramuscular injection, and injection into soft tissue.

Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection/infusion:

Licensed for intravenous injection, intravenous infusion, and intramuscular injection (but not for injection into soft tissues).

It is available in two pack sizes;

- 100mg x 1 vial which also contains a vial of diluent
- 100mg x 10 vials which does not include the diluent

Each vial of the hydrocortisone sodium succinate powder contains the equivalent of 100 mg hydrocortisone as the sodium succinate salt, which is usually reconstituted with 2ml of sterile water for injection resulting in a concentration of **50 mg in 1ml**.

Difference in concentration of the two products

To reduce the risk of dosing errors, nursing and medical staff need to be aware of the extra preparation step and different concentration of reconstituted hydrocortisone sodium succinate (**50 mg in 1ml**) compared to hydrocortisone sodium phosphate solution for injection (**100 mg in 1ml**).

It is imperative that patients and/or carers who are used to administering the hydrocortisone sodium phosphate solution are taught how to reconstitute the hydrocortisone sodium succinate vial and made aware of the concentration difference of the reconstituted solution, to ensure they administer the correct dose.

Resources for patients

[Addison's Self-Help Group -The Emergency Injection for the treatment of Adrenal Crisis](#)

[Living with CAH - Emergency information](#)

[The Pituitary Foundation - Emergency Info for AI and AVP-D \(DI\)](#)

Links to further information

[Addison's Self-Help Group - Caring for the Addison's Patient: for GPs](#)

[SmPC: Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules](#)

[SmPC: Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection/infusion](#)

[Specialist Pharmacy Service: Supporting safe use of adrenal crisis emergency management kits](#)

[NICE guideline – Adrenal insufficiency: identification and management](#)

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.

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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2025/004

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.