



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/059

Nalcrom[®] (sodium cromoglicate) 100mg capsules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 28/10/2020

Summary

- Nalcrom[®] 100mg capsules will be out of stock until late November 2020.
- Unlicensed imports of sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules have been sourced.
- UKMi have sought clinical advice on switching to alternative products.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies until the resupply date, clinicians should:

- prescribe unlicensed imports of sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules. Prescribers should work with pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below); or
- refer patients to specialists for consideration of an alternative product, taking into account local prescribing guidelines, age and condition being treated if unlicensed imports are not appropriate (see supporting information below).

Supporting information

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical
 - Mawdsleys Unlicensed
 - Target Healthcare
- 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:
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
 - [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
- 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:

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

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

- Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
 - Sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules (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**”.

Clinical Information

Please refer to the BNF/BNFc and SPCs for further information:

- [Nalcrom® \(sodium cromoglicate\) 100mg capsules.](#)
- [Sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules BNF.](#)
- [Sodium cromoglicate 100mg capsules BNFc.](#)

Further resources:

- [BNFc section on Food Allergy.](#)
- [British Association of Dermatologists leaflet on Urticaria Pigmentosa \(cutaneous Mastocytosis\).](#)
- [NICE evidence searches of Mastocytosis.](#)
- [Orphanet evidence summary of systemic Mastocytosis.](#)

Specialists have advised that where there are insufficient supplies of Nalcrom® 100mg capsules, each patient will need to be individually assessed for consideration of an alternative agent(s), taking into account the condition (e.g. food allergy, cutaneous mastocytosis) being treated and previous treatments tried.

Potential options include:

- Zaditen (ketotifen) 1mg tablets.
- Non-sedating H1 antihistamines.
- H2 receptor antagonists. (**Please note**, this is currently being managed as a supply disruption, further information can be found in MSN/2019/020-U2).

Enquiries

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