



News Alert

Monday 23rd December 2019



SSP issued for Haloperidol: Urgent actions required by pharmacy teams

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Haloperidol 500 microgram capsules (Serenace®), a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on **Monday 23 December 2019**.

Developed by clinicians, **SSP04** provides pharmacists with procedures to follow in providing a suitable alternative product, Haloperidol 500 microgram tablets, in response to the serious shortage affecting the capsules.

All community pharmacies will receive an email to their shared NHSmail account informing them of this SSP. **Community pharmacy contractors and their teams are asked to read the relevant SSP documents and to implement the protocols with immediate effect on Monday 23 December 2019.**

[SSP04: Haloperidol 500mcg capsules \(Serenace®\)](#)

The SSPs may be amended or revoked at any time but currently expires on Monday 23 March 2020 – PSNC will update contractors on any changes.

Whilst Haloperidol 500 microgram capsules (Serenace®) is a fairly low volume line, DHSC believes the disruption to supply has reached a level that requires intervention. The protocol, **SSP04** has been authorised by the Secretary of State to help manage the supply issues affecting Haloperidol 500 microgram capsules (Serenace®) and to try to ensure that fewer patients need to be referred to their prescriber.

The SSP recommendations

The SSP provides that the tablet formulation of Haloperidol may be supplied against prescriptions for Haloperidol 500 microgram capsules (Serenace®) as follows:

Haloperidol 500 microgram capsules (Serenace®) -> Haloperidol 500 microgram tablets

The pharmacist must exercise their professional judgement to ensure the alternative product is suitable for the patient.

Support in implementing the SSPs

The following resources have been developed to support pharmacy teams in using these protocols.

[Serious Shortage Protocols Operational Guidance](#)

[Serious Shortage Protocols Questions & Answers](#)

[PSNC's Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\) Endorsing Factsheet](#)

[PSNC Briefing 023/19: Serious Shortage Protocols – A guide for community pharmacy teams](#)

Background information on SSPs

Further information on what SSPs are and when they may be used is available via the links below.

[Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\) on-demand webinar](#)

[Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\) webpage](#)

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