



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/038

Pabrinex[®] (Vitamins B and C) Intravenous and Intramuscular High Potency solution for injection ampoules

Tier 3 – High impact*

Date of issue: 03/04/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Pabrinex[®] Intravenous (IV) injection will be out of stock from August 2024 until at least September 2025.
- Pabrinex[®] Intramuscular (IM) injection is being discontinued, with stock exhaustion expected from December 2024.
- There are no other licensed parenteral alternatives to Pabrinex[®] IV and IM injections.
- Thiamine 50mg and 100mg tablets remain available and should be used where clinically appropriate.

Actions Required

Clinicians and pharmacy teams should be aware of the following guidance:

- Pabrinex[®] injection is only distributed via the wholesalers AAH Pharmaceuticals. All AAH accounts with historical usage of Pabrinex[®] IV and IM injections have been allocated stock to cover 100% of their average historical demand. This quota will be reviewed monthly;
- Trusts, working with clinicians, should urgently clinically review where and how Pabrinex[®] IV and IM are used in their local health system to ensure it is only being used within national clinical guidelines (see links to further information below) in terms of dose and length of course. The aim should be to reduce usage of Pabrinex[®] IV and IM injections, and maintain stocks for essential use only;
- Trusts should review where Pabrinex[®] IV and IM is stocked in order to consolidate supply;
- Trusts should not seek to replace Pabrinex[®] IV with supplies of Pabrinex[®] IM as it cannot support an uplift in demand and is required in non-hospital settings where Pabrinex[®] IV cannot be administered; and
- where there is insufficient stock in Trusts, and where clinical judgement determines that a patient should be prescribed Pabrinex[®] IV or IM injections, liaise with pharmacy services to request mutual aid, facilitated by their Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist or for consideration of additional supply. All other accounts should escalate their queries to AAH Pharmaceuticals for consideration.

Note that the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England are convening a clinical reference group of key stakeholders to develop and share additional guidance in due course. Additionally, they are working with importers/ suppliers to source alternative products including unlicensed thiamine injections, further information will be provided.

*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

Clinical Information

Pabrinex® IV and IM injections are both indicated for rapid therapy of severe depletion or malabsorption of the water-soluble vitamins B and C, particularly in alcohol dependent patients, where a severe depletion of thiamine can lead to Wernicke's encephalopathy ([see NICE CG100 Alcohol use disorders: diagnosis and management of physical complications](#)).

They are indicated for use after acute infections, post-operatively and in psychiatric states. Pabrinex® IV is used to maintain levels of vitamin B and C in patients on chronic intermittent haemodialysis.

Off-label use

In practice, Pabrinex® IV is used in patients with or at risk of malnourishment or refeeding syndrome (where oral/enteral route is not available or suitable).

Further dosing and extended duration of treatment of suspected or established Wernicke's encephalopathy is off-label, see BNF for further information.

Clinical guidance is being formulated taking into account the supply issues with Pabrinex® IV and IM injections and will be shared in due course.

Composition of Pabrinex® Intravenous (IV) injection ampoules	Composition of Pabrinex® Intramuscular (IM) injection ampoules
Each presentation (carton) contains pairs of 5 ml ampoules. Each pair of ampoules to be used in treatment is labelled Pabrinex® No.1 and Pabrinex® No.2.	Each presentation (carton) contains pairs of 5 ml and 2 ml ampoules. Each pair of ampoules consists of one 5 ml and one 2 ml ampoule to be used in treatment, labelled as Pabrinex® No.1 and Pabrinex® No. 2.
<u>Each No. 1 ampoule contains: 5 ml ampoule</u> Thiamine Hydrochloride 250 mg Riboflavin (as Phosphate Sodium) 4 mg Pyridoxine Hydrochloride 50 mg	<u>Each No. 1 ampoule contains: 5 ml ampoule</u> Thiamine Hydrochloride 250 mg Riboflavin (as Phosphate Sodium) 4 mg Pyridoxine Hydrochloride 50 mg
<u>Each No. 2 ampoule contains: 5 ml ampoule</u> Ascorbic acid 500 mg Nicotinamide 160 mg Glucose (as Monohydrate) 1000 mg	<u>Each No. 2 ampoule contains: 2 ml ampoule</u> Ascorbic acid 500 mg Nicotinamide 160 mg
<u>Excipients with known effect:</u> This medicinal product contains 79 mg sodium per 1 pair of 5 ml ampoules, equivalent to 4% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2 g sodium for an adult.	<u>Excipients with known effect:</u> This medicinal product contains 67 mg sodium per 1 pair of ampoules, equivalent to 3.4% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2 g sodium for an adult. It also contains benzyl alcohol.

Links to further information

[SmPC Pabrinex® Intramuscular High Potency Injection](#)

[SmPC Pabrinex® Intravenous High Potency, Concentrate for Solution for Infusion](#)

[BNF Vitamin B substances with ascorbic acid](#)

[NICE CG100 Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis and management of physical complications](#)
[NICE CG32 Nutrition support for adults: oral nutrition support, enteral tube feeding and parenteral nutrition](#)

Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist (RPPS) or Associate RPPS, who will escalate to national teams if required.

REGION	Lead RPPS	Email	Associate RPPS	Email
Midlands	Andi Swain	andi.swain@nhs.net	Vacant	:
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/2024/038

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.