



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/108

## Levobunolol (Betagan<sup>®</sup>) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 20/11/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

### Summary

- Levobunolol (Betagan<sup>®</sup>) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free are being discontinued from late December 2024.
- Alternative preservative free, single dose beta-blocker eye drops remain available and are able to support the market.

### Actions Required

Clinicians should identify patients prescribed levobunolol (Betagan<sup>®</sup>) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free and consider:

- prescribing timolol (Tiopex<sup>®</sup>) 1mg/g eye gel drops 0.4g unit dose preservative free or betaxolol (Betoptic<sup>®</sup>) 0.25% eye drops 0.25ml unit dose preservative free, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on any changes in preparation, dose and frequency (see supporting information below); or
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

### Supporting information

#### Clinical Information

The preservative free (single/unit dose) eye drops containing the beta blockers levobunolol (Betagan<sup>®</sup>), timolol (Tiopex<sup>®</sup>), and betaxolol (Betoptic<sup>®</sup>) are licensed for treatment of chronic open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension.

Dose frequency varies between preparations:

- Levobunolol (Betagan<sup>®</sup>) 0.5% eye drops (0.4ml unit dose) are administered once or twice daily.
- Timolol (Tiopex<sup>®</sup>) 1mg/g eye gel (0.4g unit dose) is administered once daily, in the morning.
- Betaxolol (Betoptic<sup>®</sup>) 0.25% eye drops (0.25ml single dose) are administered twice daily.

#### Links to further information

[BNF: Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension](#)

[CKS-Glaucoma: Topical beta-blockers](#)

[SmPC Betagan<sup>®</sup> Unit Dose](#)

[SmPC Tiopex<sup>®</sup> 1mg/g eye gel in single-dose container](#)

[SmPC Betoptic<sup>®</sup> Suspension single dose 0.25% eye drops](#)

### Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).

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

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