



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2025/006

Quetiapine 50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400mg modified-release tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 10/02/2025

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- There are supply constraints affecting quetiapine 50mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400mg modified-release tablets (see supply summary table in Supporting information).
- Quetiapine immediate release tablets remain available and can support the increased demand. Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of quetiapine modified-release tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Clinicians should not initiate new patients on quetiapine modified-release tablets until the supply issues have resolved.

Where existing patients have insufficient supply of quetiapine modified-release tablets, clinicians should consider prescribing quetiapine immediate release tablets at equivalent daily dose, ensuring patients are counselled if there is a change in dose frequency (see supporting information); or where this option is not appropriate, prescribing:

- quetiapine modified-release tablets generically, to enable any available brand to be dispensed, considering patient preferences, known allergies and medical history. Due to limited availability of quetiapine modified-release tablets, prescribers should confirm availability with their local pharmacy before prescribing; or
- unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.

Additional actions for prescribers in Health and Justice settings:

- continue to review patients as usual to confirm quetiapine is still the most suitable therapy.
- complete a reassessment of in-possession (IP) quetiapine as part of a clinical review of new and existing patients. In-possession supplies of quetiapine will support the use of immediate release tablets in line with the MSN along with the usual benefits of an IP approach for those patients not at risk of self-harm.

*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

Supply summary table

Brand	50mg	150mg	200mg	300mg	400mg	600mg
Atrolak® XL	In stock: cannot support increased demand	Out of stock until March 2025	Out of stock until October 2025	Out of stock until October 2025	Out of stock until October 2025	Not marketed
Brancico® XL	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Not marketed
Biquelle® XL (30)	Out of stock until May 2025	In stock: cannot support increased demand	Out of stock until May 2025	Out of stock until May 2025	Limited supplies until May 2025	In stock
Biquelle® XL (60)	Limited supplies until May 2025	Limited supplies until May 2025	Out of stock until May 2025	Out of stock until May 2025	Out of stock until May 2025	Not marketed
Mintreleq® XL	Out of stock until August 2025	Limited supplies until July 2025	Out of stock until August 2025	Out of stock until August 2025	Limited supplies until August 2025	Not marketed
Seroquel® XL	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	Not marketed
Sondate® XL	Out of stock until March 2025	Out of stock until February 2025	In stock: cannot support increased demand	Out of stock until March 2025	In stock: cannot support increased demand	Not marketed
Zaluron® XL	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	In stock: can support a limited increase in demand	Not marketed
Quetiapine modified-release tablets (generic)	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Out of stock: no resupply date	Not marketed

Clinical Information

Quetiapine is licensed for the treatment of

- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar disorder (for treating the moderate to severe manic and, major depressive episodes, and for prevention of their recurrence in patients who previously responded to quetiapine treatment)

It is also licensed as add-on treatment of major depressive episodes in patients with major depressive disorder who have had sub-optimal response to antidepressant monotherapy.

Consumption of a high-fat meal increases bioavailability of quetiapine in the modified-release formulations. Food has a minimal effect on quetiapine absorption in the immediate release formulations.

The modified-release tablets are administered once daily without food, at least one hour before a meal. The immediate release tablets are administered with or without food, once or twice a day, depending on indication.

For patients switched from once daily modified-release tablets to immediate release tablets, the total daily dose of quetiapine is split into a twice daily regimen or taken once daily, depending on indication; individual dosage adjustments may be necessary.

Links to further information

[SmPC quetiapine](#)
[BNF quetiapine](#)

[BNFC quetiapine](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed quetiapine modified-release tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Mawdsleys Unlicensed

Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes.

Please see the links below for further information:

- [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
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),

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:

Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:

- Quetiapine (*specify strength*) modified-release tablets (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**”.

Enquiries

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