



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2025/028

Lidocaine (Xylocaine®) 10mg/dose spray sugar free

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 07/05/2025

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Lidocaine (Xylocaine®) 10mg/dose spray sugar free is out of stock from mid-May until late June 2025.
- Lidocaine 5% / Phenylephrine 0.5% nasal spray remains available but cannot support an increase in demand.
- Lidocaine 150mg/g / Cetrимide 1.5mg/g (Xylonor®) oromucosal spray sugar free remains available but cannot support an increase in demand.
- Lidocaine 50mg/g / Cetrимide 1.5mg/g (Xylonor®) gel sugar free remains available and can support an increase in demand.
- Unlicensed supplies can be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

NHS provider Trust pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to:

- review local stock holdings of lidocaine 10mg/dose spray and prioritise existing stock for use in areas most in need of this product (i.e. upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy/procedures); and
- consider the appropriateness of conserving existing stock of lidocaine 10mg/dose spray in endoscopy by limiting the number of sprays administered to patients and reviewing whether it is still required in patients who have received IV sedation.

Where there is insufficient stock to last until the resupply date:

- where lidocaine 10mg/dose spray was being used in the dental setting, consider if Xylonor® gel is a suitable alternative (see supporting information);
- consider prescribing unlicensed products when required for non-dental indications. 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); and
- agree a plan for communicating this supply issue to relevant teams within the organisation.

Supporting information

Lidocaine (Xylocaine®) 10mg/dose spray is licensed for the prevention of pain associated with the following procedures:

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

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

- Otorhinolaryngology: anaesthesia prior to minor non-invasive procedures in the nasal cavity, pharynx and epipharynx including rhinoscopy and laryngoscopy.
- Obstetrics: as supplementary pain control for procedures not requiring aseptic technique.
- Insertion of instruments and catheters into the respiratory and digestive tract: provides surface anaesthesia for the oropharyngeal and tracheal areas to reduce reflex activity, attenuate haemodynamic response and to facilitate insertion of the catheter or the passage of instruments during endotracheal intubation, laryngoscopy, bronchoscopy, oesophagoscopy and gastroscopy.
- Dental practice: before minor dental procedures where local anaesthesia is desired.

Xylonor® (lidocaine 50mg/g /cetrimide 1.5mg/g) gel is intended for use by dentists and stomatologists only. It is licensed for use in adults and in children aged from 4 years for the production of topical anaesthesia in buccal cavity, especially in following procedures: anaesthesia of mucous membrane before injection, lancing of abscesses, or scaling, surface anaesthesia for extraction of mobile, deciduous or permanent teeth, and for prevention of gagging during impression taking.

Links to further information

[SmPC – Lidocaine \(Xylocaine®\)10mg/dose spray sugar free](#)

[SmPC – Lidocaine 50mg/g / Cetrimide 1.5mg/g \(Xylonor®\) gel sugar free](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed lidocaine 10mg/dose spray sugar free (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- BAP Pharma
- Chemys Limited
- Clinigen
- Durbin
- Genetech Pharmaceuticals
- Mawdsleys
- QMed Pharma
- Smartway
- Tanner Pharma
- Target Healthcare

MMEU has supplies of unlicensed lidocaine 5% / Phenylephrine 0.5% spray (50mL) available via Mawdsleys. Please note, this is a multi-dose bottle.

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:

- Lidocaine 10mg/dose spray sugar free (imported)
- Lidocaine 5% / Phenylephrine 0.5% spray (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

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Specialist Pharmacy Service Regional Pharmacy Procurement Team, who will escalate to national teams if required.

REGION	Lead RPPS	Email	Associate RPPS	Email
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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2025/028

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.