



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2026/020

Cefixime (Suprax[®]) 200mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 30/03/2026

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Cefixime (Suprax[®]) 200mg tablets are in limited supply until mid-October 2026.
- Alternative broad-spectrum antibiotics remain available.
- Unlicensed supplies may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- consider the use of alternative broad-spectrum antibiotics in line with local and national guidance (see supporting information)
- reserve residual stocks of cefixime 200mg tablets for:
 - patients with uncomplicated ano-genital and pharyngeal gonococcal infection who are needle phobic, or where alternative oral antibiotics are not clinically appropriate
 - use as prophylaxis against diarrhoea in severely neutropenic patients being treated with irinotecan, where other broad-spectrum antibiotics are not deemed clinically appropriate, considering appropriateness of use only during the nadir period to preserve stock
- consider the use of unlicensed cefixime 200mg tablets only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate or available; and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, seek advice from specialists on management options.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Cefixime is an orally active third generation cephalosporin which has in vitro bactericidal activity against a wide variety of Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms. It is indicated for the treatment of acute infections such as those affecting the upper and lower respiratory tract, and the urinary tract. It is also used to treat uncomplicated ano-genital and pharyngeal gonococcal infections in adults who are not suitable for ceftriaxone injection due to needle phobia or contraindications. Other uses include prophylaxis against diarrhoea in severely neutropenic patients treated with irinotecan.

Links to further information

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

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

[SPC Cefixime \(Suprax®\) 200mg tablets](#)
[BNF Cefixime](#)
[BASHH- Gonorrhoea 2025: Updated Guideline](#)
[NICE: Infections resources](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed cefixime 200mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Genetech Pharmaceuticals Limited

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:

- Cefixime 200mg 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

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

Region	Lead SPS RPPS Name and Email	Associate SPS RPPS Name and Email
Midlands	Andi Swain andi.swain@nhs.net	Dav Manku Dav.Manku@uhb.nhs.uk
East of England	James Kent james.kent@nhs.net	Tracy McMillan tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net

London	Jackie Eastwood j.eastwood@nhs.net	Daniel Johnson Daniel.Johnson@nhs.net
North East and Yorkshire	David Allwood davidallwood@nhs.net	Penny Daynes penny.daynes@nhs.net
North West	Andrew Stewart Andrew.stewart@liverpoolft.nhs.uk	Vacant
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/2026/020.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.