



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2026/025

## Aztreonam 1g and 2g powder for solution for injection vials

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 11/06/2026

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Aztreonam 2g powder for solution for injection vials are currently out of stock with a resupply date to be confirmed.
- Aztreonam 1g powder for solution for injection vials will be out of stock from end of June 2026 with a resupply date to be confirmed.
- Alternative anti-microbials remain available.
- Kent Pharma has sourced unlicensed products available to order directly, which can support demand. Other specialist importers have also sourced unlicensed products, lead times vary.

## Actions Required

NHS provider Trust pharmacy procurement teams and clinical teams should work together to review local stock holding of aztreonam 1g and 2g powder for solution for injection vials, including stock being held at ward locations.

Where there is insufficient stock clinicians should:

- consider prescribing an alternative antimicrobial as appropriate, referring to clinical expert recommendations;
- consider prescribing 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);

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

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Aztreonam is a monocyclic beta-lactam ('monobactam') antibiotic with an antibacterial spectrum limited to Gram-negative aerobic bacteria including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and *Haemophilus influenzae*; it should not be used alone for 'blind' treatment since it is not active against Gram positive organisms. Aztreonam is also effective against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (but not against concurrent chlamydial infection).

Wherever possible, appropriate specimens should always be taken prior to commencing antimicrobial therapy and the results of cultures should be reviewed to ensure empiric treatment choices are appropriate.

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

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

Some Trusts use aztreonam in patients with a penicillin allergy. This population has a higher risk of *Clostridioides difficile* infection than those without penicillin allergy. Switching to certain broad-spectrum alternatives may increase the risk of *Clostridioides difficile* e.g. cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and carbapenems. Ideally, non-fluoroquinolone antibiotic alternatives are preferable where possible, as highlighted in the [January 2024 MHRA Drug Safety Alert](#).

#### [Links to further information](#)

[BNF- aztreonam](#)

[SmPC- aztreonam 1g powder for solution for injection vials](#)

[SmPC- aztreonam 2g powder for solution for injection vials](#)

[MHRA Drug Safety Alert: Fluoroquinolone antibiotics](#)

[National IV to oral switch criteria \(adults & paediatrics\)](#)

[Penicillin allergy delabelling evidence bundle](#)

[BSACI Guideline for the penicillin allergy delabelling by non-allergists in hospital setting](#)

[Dutch Working Party on Antibiotic Policy \(SWAB\) guideline for the approach to suspected antibiotic allergy](#)

[Blood culture pathway improvement](#)

#### [Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports](#)

The following suppliers/ specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed aztreonam 1g powder for solution for injection vials and aztreonam 2g powder for solution for injection vials (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium
- Alcatia Pharma
- Chemys
- Clinigen Group
- Durbin
- Kent Pharma
- Mawdsleys
- Orifarm UK
- Qmed Pharma
- Tanner Pharma
- Target Healthcare

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:

- Aztreonam 1g powder for solution for injection vials (imported)
- Aztreonam 2g powder for solution for injection vials (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 <a href="mailto:andi.swain@nhs.net">andi.swain@nhs.net</a>	Dav Manku <a href="mailto:Dav.Manku@uhb.nhs.uk">Dav.Manku@uhb.nhs.uk</a>
East of England	James Kent <a href="mailto:james.kent@nhs.net">james.kent@nhs.net</a>	Tracy McMillan <a href="mailto:tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net">tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net</a>
London	Jackie Eastwood <a href="mailto:j.eastwood@nhs.net">j.eastwood@nhs.net</a>	Daniel Johnson <a href="mailto:Daniel.Johnson@nhs.net">Daniel.Johnson@nhs.net</a>
North East and Yorkshire	David Allwood <a href="mailto:davidallwood@nhs.net">davidallwood@nhs.net</a>	Penny Daynes <a href="mailto:penny.daynes@nhs.net">penny.daynes@nhs.net</a>
North West	Andrew Stewart <a href="mailto:Andrew.stewart@liverpoolft.nhs.uk">Andrew.stewart@liverpoolft.nhs.uk</a>	Vacant
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### Scotland

[nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot)

### Wales

[MedicinesShortages@gov.wales](mailto:MedicinesShortages@gov.wales)

### Northern Ireland

[RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net)

All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2026/025.

Email: [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).