



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/036

Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 28/03/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes are currently out of stock until early May 2024.
- Midazolam oromucosal solution pre-filled syringes 2.5mg/0.5mL, 5mg/1mL, 7.5mg/1.5mL and 10mg/2mL remain available and will be able to support increased demand.
- Diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes remain available and will be able to support increased demand.

Actions Required

Where supply of diazepam 10mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes is not available, clinicians should:

- review patients and consider prescribing midazolam oromucosal solution as appropriate, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and the parent/carer is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required, and how to administer the dose (see Supporting Information);
- where midazolam oromucosal solution is not appropriate, consider prescribing diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes to make up the dose required for the patient, ensuring that the parent or carer is aware of how to do this and reminded of the need to repeat this process for any subsequent doses; and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists for individualised review and consideration of alternative management options.

Ambulance service staff should:

- use diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes to make up the dose required for the patient.

*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

Clinical Information

Diazepam rectal solution tubes are licensed in epileptic and febrile convulsions, to relieve muscle spasm caused by tetanus, as a sedative in minor surgical and dental procedures, and for initial use in acute severe anxiety and agitation.

Midazolam oromucosal solution is licensed in the treatment of prolonged, acute, convulsive seizures in infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents (from 3 months to < 18 years). Midazolam oromucosal solution is not licensed for use in children under 3 month or in adults over 18 years. It is used off-label for status epilepticus in these age groups.

Please refer to the links below for further information:

[SmPC Diazepam 5mg rectal solution](#)

[SmPC Midazolam oromucosal solution](#)

[BNF Diazepam](#)

[BNF Midazolam](#)

[BNFC: Repeated or cluster seizures, prolonged seizures, and status epilepticus](#)

[Administration of Rectal Diazepam to Neonates and Infants to Treat Seizures Prior to Hospital Admission](#)

Enquiries

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

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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2024/036.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.