



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/056

Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg/5ml liquid

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 16/05/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg/5ml liquid is out of stock. Resupply date is to be confirmed.
- Generic carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free remains available but is unable to support an increase in demand.
- Unlicensed supplies of carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension can be sourced, lead times vary.

## Actions Required

Prescribers should not initiate new patients on Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg/5ml liquid until the shortage has resolved.

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- reserve available supplies of generic carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension for patients who usually receive generic carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension;
- consider prescribing unlicensed carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension, available from Specials manufacturers, ensuring a sugar-free formulation is prescribed for certain patient groups (see Supporting information);
- consider prescribing unlicensed carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension from Specialist Importers, which are available in limited quantities, ensuring a sugar-free formulation is prescribed for certain patient groups (see Supporting information);
- advise patients that this switch is necessary to maintain treatment, and to seek advice if they experience loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects after switching; and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Carbamazepine is a [category 1 anti-epileptic drug](#) so ideally patients should be maintained on a specific manufacturer's product.

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

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

Tegretol® (carbamazepine) liquid is licensed for the management of generalised tonic-clonic and partial seizures in epilepsy, the prophylaxis of manic-depressive psychosis in patients unresponsive to lithium therapy, and for trigeminal neuralgia. This formulation is sugar-free.

### Paediatric patients

The BNFC recommends the use of sugar-free medicines for long-term treatment in children.

Children on a ketogenic diet should be on low/no carbohydrate formulations/preparations, where possible. When switching products, the carbohydrate content of the new product should be checked, and dietician consulted on whether the diet needs to be altered to accommodate it.

Please refer to the links below for further information:

[SmPC Tegretol® 100mg/5ml liquid](#)

[BNF Carbamazepine](#)

[BNFC Epilepsy](#)

[BNF Epilepsy](#)

[NICE CKS: Epilepsy](#)

[MHRA anti-epileptic advice on switching products](#)

### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed medicines

The following Specials manufacturers have confirmed they can manufacture carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension (please note there may be other companies that can also manufacture supplies):

- Eaststone (product is sugar-free; carbohydrate content to be confirmed)
- IPS (product is sugar-free; contains carbohydrates)
- Nova Laboratories (product contains sugar)

The following specialist importer has confirmed they can source unlicensed carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Mawdsleys - limited quantities of Timonil® (carbamazepine) 20mg/ml liquid sugar free, and Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 20mg/ml liquid sugar free have been sourced, lead times vary.

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)

## Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).