



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/068

Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 05/06/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free is out of stock until early September 2024.
- Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension remains available and can support increased demand.
- Unlicensed imports of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free can be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

All clinicians/prescribers should:

- consider prescribing co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension, the excipients differ from those of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension, therefore before switching ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required (see Supporting information);
- 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); and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Co-trimoxazole **40mg/200mg/5ml** oral suspension sugar free is licensed for use in children aged 12 years and under (infants [>6 weeks to <2 years old] and children [>2 to <12 years old]).

Co-trimoxazole **80mg/400mg/5ml** oral suspension is licensed for use in children aged >12 to <18 years and adults.

Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension contains different excipients to co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free and may not be as palatable for some children. Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucrose-isomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine. However, in other patients, it may be considered for off-label use, once it is confirmed that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and the patient/carer is counselled on the appropriate dose and volume required.

NOTE: 5ml of co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg suspension = 2.5ml of co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg suspension.

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

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

Links to further information:

[SmPC Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension](#)

[SmPC Co-trimoxazole 80mg/400mg/5ml oral suspension](#)

[BNF Co-trimoxazole](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium
- Chemys
- Clinigen
- Genetech
- Mawdsleys
- Smartway
- Target

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:
 - co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (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 Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist (RPPS) or Associate RPPS, who will escalate to national teams if required.

REGION	Lead RPPS	Email	Associate RPPS	Email
Midlands	Andi Swain	andi.swain@nhs.net	Vacant	
East of England	James Kent	james.kent@nhs.net	Tracy McMillan	tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net
London	Jackie Eastwood	jacqueline.eastwood@gstt.nhs.uk	Daniel Johnson	Daniel.Johnson@gstt.nhs.uk
North East and Yorkshire	David Allwood	davidallwood@nhs.net	Penny Daynes	penny.daynes@nhs.net
North West	Richard Bateman	richard.bateman@liverpoolft.nhs.uk	Andy Stewart	Andrew.stewart@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
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
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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/2024/068

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.