



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2025/016

Megestrol (Megace[®]) 160mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 25/03/2025

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Megestrol (Megace[®]) 160mg tablets are out of stock until mid-April 2025.
- Medroxyprogesterone (Provera[®]) 200mg and 400mg tablets remain available and can support an increase in demand.
- Medroxyprogesterone (Provera[®]) 100mg tablets remain available but cannot support a full increase in demand.
- Please note that Provera[®] tablets will be available generically as medroxyprogesterone tablets in April 2025.
- Unlicensed supplies of megestrol tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supply to last until the re-supply date, prescribers should consider prescribing medroxyprogesterone (Provera[®]) tablets, noting that 200mg and 400mg strengths are able to support the market during this time, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose required (see supporting information below).

Primary care prescribers should seek advice from the specialist team on appropriateness of switching to medroxyprogesterone and dosing, and if this is not considered suitable, on alternative management options.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Megestrol (Megace[®]) is a potent progestogen. The tablets are licensed for the treatment of certain hormone dependent neoplasms, such as breast cancer.

Medroxyprogesterone (Provera[®]) is an alternative progestogen licensed for the treatment of certain hormone dependant neoplasms, such as endometrial cancer, renal cell cancer, and cancer of breast in post-menopausal women. Licensed dosing is 200 to 600 mg daily for endometrial and renal cell cancer and 400 to 1500 mg daily for breast cancer.

Megestrol and medroxyprogesterone are also used off label for the treatment of anorexia and cachexia in cancer. Dosing of medroxyprogesterone ranges from 400mg in morning initially, increased as necessary to 400mg to 500mg twice a day.

*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 - Megestrol \(Megace®\) 160mg tablets](#)

[SmPC - Medroxyprogesterone \(Provera®\) tablets](#)

[BNF – Megestrol](#)

[BNF – Medroxyprogesterone](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed megestrol 160mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Clinigen – can source a brand called Megefren®
- Mawdsleys – can source a brand called Borea®

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:

- Megestrol160mg 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

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.