

Dear Colleague

EXTENSION TO SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOLS (SSPS) FOR PHENOXYMETHYLPENICILLIN, CLARITHROMYCIN, AND SANDRENA® (ESTRADIOL)

Purpose

1. This Circular advises NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors that ten of the UK-wide Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for antibiotics products due to expire on 28 April 2023 have now been extended.
2. The SSPs for Phenoxymethylpenicillin (SSPs 040-047) have been extended until Friday 12 May 2023, and the SSPs for Clarithromycin (SSPs 053-54) in oral suspension formulation have been extended until Friday 26 May 2023.
3. Similarly, the three UK-wide SSPs for Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) related to Sandrena® (estradiol) 500 microgram and 1mg gel sachets (SSPs 029-031) due to expire on 28 April 2023 have also been extended until Friday 12 May 2023
4. Community pharmacists are advised to review and familiarise themselves with the new end dates for all these SSPs. Please refer to Annex A and B for a detailed list of all thirteen SSPs which have been extended .

Background

5. To assist in alleviating current supply issues with medicines availability, various UK-wide SSPs have been issued by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), in consultation with the Scottish Government. An SSP is an additional tool to manage and mitigate medication shortages for prescribing clinicians, community pharmacies and importantly patients.
6. Each SSP is individually developed and authorised clinically, to enable community pharmacists and dispensing doctors to dispense a different strength or formulation or alternative medicine or appliances in accordance with the protocol, rather than having to refer

28 April 2023

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Director Practitioner Services,
NHS NSS

For information

Directors of Pharmacy
NHS Medical Directors

Enquiries to:

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1st Floor East Rear
St Andrew's House
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Email:

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prescribing decisions back to the original prescriber. These protocols are time limited.

7. Community pharmacists are expected to use their professional skill and judgement to decide whether it is reasonable and appropriate to substitute a person's prescribed medicine using the SSP. The person will also have to agree to the alternative supply.
8. The DHSC frequently reviews which medicines should be under an SSP and for how long they need to be in place.
9. Any amendments or extensions to existing SSPs are documented on the NHS Business Services Authority website using the following link: [Serious shortage protocols \(SSPs\) | NHSBSA](#).

Enquiries

10. For any queries on the details of this circular, please contact the Scottish Government Pharmacy Team at PharmacyTeam@gov.scot.

Action

11. **Health Boards are asked to note the contents of this Circular and to bring it to the attention of community pharmacy contractors on their Pharmaceutical Lists and Area Pharmaceutical Committees. This Circular should also be brought to the attention of General Practices.**

Yours sincerely



Alison Strath
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

List of eight Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Phenoxyethylpenicillin antibiotic products extended until 12 May 2023

SSP Number	Affected Product	Links to SSPs	Relates to PCA(P) (2022) circular
040	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	SSP040 Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg-5ml oral solution sugar free 1.1 20122022.pdf (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 35
041	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	SSP041 Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg-5ml oral solution sugar free 1.1 20122022.pdf (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 36
042	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution	SSP042 Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg-5ml oral solution 1.1 20122022.pdf (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 37
043	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution	SSP043~1.PDF (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 38
044	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 125mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	SSP044~1.PDF (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 39
045	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution	SSP045~1.PDF (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 40
046	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	SSP046~1.PDF (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 41
047	Phenoxyethylpenicillin 250mg/5ml oral solution	SSP047~1.PDF (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022) 42

List of two Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Clarithromycin antibiotic products extended until 26 May 2023

SSP Number	Affected Product	Links to SSPs	Relates to PCA(P) (2022) circular
053	Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension	SSP054 Clarithromycin 250mg-5ml oral suspension final 06042023.pdf (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2023) 15
054	Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension	SSP053 Clarithromycin 125mg-5ml oral suspension final 06042023.pdf (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2023) 16

List of three Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for HRT related to Sandrena® 500 microgram and 1mg gel sachets extended until 12 May 2023

SSP Number	Affected Product	Links to SSPs	Relates to PCA(P) (2022) circular
029	Estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and 1mg gel sachets	Microsoft Word - DRAFT SSP029 Sandrena restriction FINAL.docx (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022)20
030	Estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and 1mg gel sachets	Microsoft Word - DRAFT SSP030 Sandrena substitution FINAL.docx (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022)21
031	Estradiol (Sandrena®) 500microgram and 1mg gel sachets	Microsoft Word - DRAFT SSP031 Sandrena substitution and restriction FINAL.docx (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)	PCA(P)(2022)22