



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/008

Acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 8/2/2021

Summary

- Acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules are out of stock until May 2021.
- Acetazolamide immediate release 250mg tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
- Limited supplies of unlicensed imports of acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules have been sourced.

Actions Required

- For patients with insufficient supplies, clinicians should consider prescribing acetazolamide 250mg tablets.
- See the UKMi memo (link below) for further advice about management and switching from acetazolamide modified-release capsules to immediate release formulations.
- If acetazolamide 250mg tablets are not appropriate, consider prescribing one of the following unlicensed medicines:
 - acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules
 - acetazolamide oral suspension (various strengths available)

Supporting Information

- Please see the following UKMi memo for further advice:
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/acetazolamide-250mg-prolonged-release-capsules-advanz-teva/>
- The following specialist importer(s) have currently confirmed availability of unlicensed acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Target Healthcare Ltd
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. 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:
 - Acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules (imported)

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

- 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