



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/009

Levothyroxine 12.5microgram tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*
Date of issue: 08/02/2021

Summary

- Levothyroxine 12.5microgram tablets are out of stock until early March 2021.
- Levothyroxine 25microgram tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
- UKMi have advised levothyroxine tablets have a long half-life and clinicians should consider prescribing one levothyroxine 25microgram tablet on alternate days until levothyroxine 12.5microgram tablets become available.
- A Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) was issued on 03/02/2021.

Actions Required

- For patients with insufficient supplies, community pharmacists may supply levothyroxine 25microgram tablets in accordance with the SSP for eligible patients.
- If the above option is not deemed appropriate, clinicians should consider prescribing:
 - levothyroxine 25microgram tablets on alternate days (see supporting information below); or
 - levothyroxine 25microgram/5ml oral solution.
- Patients should be counselled regarding the switch in formulation at the point of dispensing.

Supporting information

- Please see the link below for further information on the levothyroxine 12.5microgram tablets SSP: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>
- See links below for further information:
 - [SPC for Levothyroxine preparations](#)
 - [NHS for Levothyroxine preparations](#)

Clinical Information

Due to the long half-life of levothyroxine, alternate day dosing regimens may be appropriate. When considering this option, clinicians should be satisfied the patient understands and is able to accommodate an alternate daily dosing regime and understands the risk of taking the medicine every day.

Clinicians should inform the patient how to recognize and respond to signs of toxicity at the point of prescribing. The use of an aide-memoire or another reminder system to keep track of the days when they took their medicine may be helpful.

Enquiries

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

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