



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/062

Diamorphine 5mg powder for solution for injection ampoules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 29/11/2021

Link: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/shortages/shortage-of-diamorphine-injection/>

Summary

- Diamorphine 5mg ampoules are out of stock until early January 2022
- Diamorphine 10mg, 30mg and 100mg ampoules remain available however are unable to support an uplift in demand.
- Clinicians in both primary and secondary care are reminded of permanent actions they were recommended to take in the [Supply Disruption Alert](#) for diamorphine ampoules issued in March 2020.

Actions Required

All healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care including hospices, who prescribe, dispense or administer diamorphine should continue to work with their local Medication Safety Officer (MSO), pharmacy procurement teams or local lead within their organisation to:

- implement the permanent actions set out in the [Supply Disruption Alert](#) for diamorphine injection issued in March 2020, which advises that morphine sulfate solution for injection 10mg/ml is the most likely first-line alternative.
- if diamorphine injection is required, mitigating actions need to be implemented to reduce the potential risk of overdose if using a diamorphine 10mg ampoule.

Additionally, those in secondary care should ensure that:

- where patients cannot be treated with alternative opioid agents, contact their Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist, who in exceptional circumstances, may be able to facilitate the sharing of stock in cases of urgent clinical need.

Supporting information

- [SPS Mi shortage memo diamorphine injection 5mg and 10mg](#)
- [Diamorphine SmPC](#)

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

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

Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist, who will escalate to national teams if required.

REGION	Full Name	Email
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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2021/062.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.