



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/036

Locorten Vioform<sup>®</sup> (flumetasone/clioquinol) 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops solution

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 21/07/2021

## Summary

- Locorten Vioform<sup>®</sup> (flumetasone/clioquinol) 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops are out of stock until April 2022.
- There are no other combination products on market that contain a steroid and an antimicrobial agent with both antibacterial and antifungal properties.
- Alternative topical combination steroid and antibacterial preparations for the ear are available (see Supporting Information below).
- The only topical antifungal preparation on the market for use in the ear is Canesten<sup>®</sup> (clotrimazole) 1% solution.

## Actions Required

Clinicians prescribing treatment should:

- not initiate any new patients on Locorten Vioform<sup>®</sup> ear drops;
- consider prescribing an alternative combination steroid and antibacterial ear drops (see Supporting Information below);
- consider whether there is also a clear clinical need to co-prescribe antifungal ear drops;
- counsel patients on how to administer two separate ear drops if both a steroid-antibacterial combination product and an antifungal is prescribed (see Supporting Information below).

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Locorten Vioform<sup>®</sup> is licensed for the treatment of inflammatory conditions of the external ear where a secondary infection is suspected, and otorrhoea.

It contains the steroid flumetasone and clioquinol, which has anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties. There are no other steroid/antibacterial/antifungal combination ear drops on the market and flumetasone and clioquinol are not available as separate components. Whether there is a need for an antifungal in addition to a steroid and antibacterial agent needs to be clinically assessed and if deemed necessary, an alternative steroid-antibacterial and antifungal will need to be prescribed as separate ear preparations. The only licensed antifungal ear drops are Canesten<sup>®</sup> (clotrimazole) 1% solution (Table 2).

There are several steroid-antibacterial combination ear preparations available (Table 1).

\*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link: [A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages](#).

Table 1

Alternative steroid-antibacterial ear preparations	Components	Availability
<b>Betnesol-N<sup>®</sup> eye/ear/nose drops</b>	Betamethasone sodium phosphate 0.1%, Neomycin sulphate 0.5%	In stock – can support a full uplift
<b>Otomize<sup>®</sup> ear spray</b>	Dexamethasone 0.1%, neomycin sulphate 0.5%, glacial acetic acid 2%	In stock – can support a full uplift
<b>Otosporin<sup>®</sup> ear drops</b>	Hydrocortisone 1%, neomycin sulphate 3400 units/mL, polymyxin B sulphate 10,000 units/mL	In stock – can support a partial uplift
<b>Sofradex<sup>®</sup> ear/eye drops</b>	Dexamethasone 0.05%, framycetin sulphate 0.5%, gramicidin 0.005%	In stock – can support a full uplift

Table 2

Alternative antifungal ear drops	Components	Stock availability
<b>Canesten<sup>®</sup> solution</b>	Clotrimazole 1%	In stock- can support a full uplift

### Counselling Points:

Clinicians should be aware of the following when counselling patients:

- Explain to patients the mechanism of action of the components being prescribed.
- Anecdotally, the administration of Canesten<sup>®</sup> solution into the ear can be painful; patients should be counselled appropriately.
- If prescribing both a combination steroid-antibacterial and antifungal ear drops, advise patients to allow a gap of 2-5 minutes before administering the second preparation; there is no guidance on optimal sequence, but the steroid preparation could be administered first in case of pain following use of Canesten<sup>®</sup> solution.

Further advice on the management of otitis externa can be found here:

- [NICE CKS: Otitis Externa](#)
- [BNF treatment summary: Ear](#)

Please refer to the SPCs for further information on all preparations:

- [Locorten Vioform<sup>®</sup> ear drops](#)
- [SPC Betnesol-N<sup>®</sup> eye/ear/nose drops](#)
- [SPC Otomize<sup>®</sup> ear spray](#)
- [SPC Otosporin<sup>®</sup> ear drops](#)
- [SPC Sofradex<sup>®</sup> ear/eye drops](#)
- [SPC Canesten<sup>®</sup> solution](#)

### Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk)