



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/038

Nexium® (esomeprazole) 10mg **gastro-resistant granules sachets**

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 21/07/2021

Summary

- Nexium (esomeprazole) 10mg gastro-resistant **granules sachets** are out of stock until w/c 16th August 2021.
- Alternative liquid or dispersible tablet formulations of a proton-pump inhibitor (PPI) remain available.
- Unlicensed imports of esomeprazole 10mg gastro-resistant granule sachets can be sourced.

Actions Required

Primary care:

Prescribers should work with local Pharmacies to understand stockholdings and signpost patients accordingly. Where patients are unable to access supplies until the re-supply date, the following actions should be considered:

- prescribe alternative PPI preparations (see supporting information below); or
- for patients whose treatment was initiated in secondary care, refer to prescribing clinician for review and/or supply; or
- consider prescribing unlicensed imports. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

Secondary care:

Trust/Health Board pharmacy procurement teams working with the local Medication Safety Officer (MSO) and clinical teams should:

- review local stock holding of Nexium 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets; and
- work with their local Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialists (RPPS) to share stock locally, to ensure continuity of care; or
- where stock is unavailable consider switching to alternative PPI preparations (see supporting information below); or
- consider prescribing unlicensed imports. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

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

[A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages](#)

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Table 1: Alternative dispersible or liquid PPI preparations

Medicine	Licensed age of patient group	Licensed for administration via enteral feeding tube	Additional information
Lansoprazole (15mg & 30mg) orodispersible tablets	Adults	Yes	N/A
Omeprazole (10mg, 20mg and 40mg) dispersible gastro-resistant tablets	Adults and Children over 1 year old	No	N/A
Omeprazole (2mg/ml or 4mg/ml) oral suspension sugar free (licensed)	Adults and Children	Yes	If the more complex reconstitution and administration instructions and/or presence of additional excipients, is not considered appropriate, an unlicensed oral solution of omeprazole is available.
Omeprazole (2mg/ml or 4mg/ml) oral solution (unlicensed)	N/A	Unlicensed product; has been used in practice down enteral feeding tube,	N/A

Please refer to the SPCs (linked) for further information on all preparations

Unlicensed Supply Information

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)

The following specialist importers have currently confirmed they can source unlicensed supplies of Esomeprazole 10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- UL Global Pharma

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
East Midlands	Andi Swain	andi.swain@nhs.net
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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2021/038.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk