



# Medicine Supply Notification

## Clomifene 50mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 11/04/2022

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Sanofi are out of stock of clomifene (Clomid®) 50mg tablets until mid-May 2022.
- Wockhardt are out of stock of clomifene 50mg tablets with resupply to be confirmed.
- Alternative medicines for use in infertility remain available and can support an uplift in demand.

## Actions Required

Secondary care should:

- not start any new patients on clomifene unless supplies are available in the pharmacy;
- support requests for mutual aid regionally which will be managed by the regional pharmacy procurement specialist (RPPS); and
- if supplies are unavailable via mutual aid, work with specialists to use alternatives or consider treatment deferral wherever possible (see supporting information).

GPs should take into account the resupply date before considering patient referral to secondary care:

- for clomifene supplies where available; or
- to specialists for individualised review and consideration of alternatives or treatment deferral.

## Supporting Information

### Clinical Information

In NICE fertility guidance, in addition to clomifene, metformin alone or in combination with clomifene, is also listed as a first-line treatment option for ovarian stimulation in women with WHO Group II anovulatory infertility, taking into account potential adverse effects, ease and mode of use, BMI, and monitoring needed. However, the guidance, published in 2013, is in the process of being updated, and specialists consulted during this shortage do not consider metformin an appropriate alternative to clomifene as monotherapy, though it may be used as add-on therapy.

In the US, first-line options for ovulation induction in anovulatory women with polycystic ovary syndrome include letrozole (off-label) as well as clomifene. Evidence to date suggests that letrozole and clomifene are more effective than metformin for live-birth rates. The specialists were also of the view that letrozole is an evidence-based alternative that is likely as effective as clomifene.

For women who are known to be resistant to clomifene, second-line medical treatments include addition of metformin to clomifene (if not already offered as first-line treatment) or gonadotrophins.

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

Clinicians should be reminded that [NICE](#) does NOT recommend use of clomifene for unexplained infertility.

Clomifene tablets are also used off-label in men with hypogonadotropic hypogonadism. Gonadotrophins have been used as an alternative treatment option.

Please refer to the links below for further information:

[Clomifene \(Clomid®\) 50mg tablets SmPC](#)

[Clomifene 50mg tablets SmPC](#)

[Letrozole 2.5mg tablets SmPC](#)

[Metformin formulations SmPC](#)

[NICE Guidance - Fertility problems: assessment and treatment](#)

## 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
<b>East Midlands</b>	Andi Swain	<a href="mailto:andi.swain@nhs.net">andi.swain@nhs.net</a>
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<b>North East</b>	*vacant*	
<b>North West</b>	See Mun Wong	<a href="mailto:SeeMun.Wong@liverpoolft.nhs.uk">SeeMun.Wong@liverpoolft.nhs.uk</a>
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### Scotland

[nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot)

### Wales

[MedicinesShortages@gov.wales](mailto:MedicinesShortages@gov.wales)

### Northern Ireland

[RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net)

All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2022/032.

Email: [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).