



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/027

Visudyne[®] (verteporfin) 15mg powder for solution for infusion

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 27/5/2021

Summary

- UK licensed Visudyne[®] is out of stock until January 2022.
- Visudyne[®] from the USA (considered unlicensed in the UK) is currently available in restricted quantities from Neon Healthcare.
- Unlicensed imports cannot currently be sourced by specialist importer companies.
- Remaining supplies of Visudyne[®] should be reserved for the treatment of ocular cancer patients.

Actions Required

Pharmacy procurement teams at the four ocular cancer centres (Sheffield, Liverpool, Moorfields and Glasgow) should:

- contact Neon Healthcare to order Visudyne[®] on an imminent patient need basis only and avoid stock-piling: 01920 444 345 or office@neonhealthcare.com; and
- contact your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist who may assist sharing stock via mutual aid from Trusts who do not treat ocular cancer.

For Visudyne[®] used outside of the treatment of ocular cancer:

- clinicians should consider prescribing an alternative treatment where possible; and
- pharmacy procurement teams should note that any Visudyne[®] supplies at Trust level may need to be consolidated at the four ocular cancer centres; Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialists will assist with this exercise.

Supporting 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)

*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
East Midlands	Andi Swain	andi.swain@nhs.net
East of England	James Kent	James.kent@nhs.net
London	Jackie Eastwood	jacqueline.eastwood@lpp.nhs.uk
North East	David Cook Umair Hamid	david.cook20@nhs.net umair.hamid2@nhs.net
North West	Glenn Harley	Glenn.Harley@liverpoolft.nhs.uk
South Central	Alison Ashman	Alison.Ashman@berkshire.nhs.uk
South East Coast	Richard Bateman	richard.bateman2@nhs.net
South West	Danny Palmer	Danny.Palmer@UHBristol.nhs.uk
West Midlands	Diptyka Hart	Diptyka.Hart@uhb.nhs.uk
Yorkshire & Humber	David Allwood	davidallwood@nhs.net

Scotland

nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot

Wales

MedicinesShortages@gov.wales

Northern Ireland

RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net

All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2021/027 - DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk