



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/079

Minims® Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose

Minims® Proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose

Tier 3 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 22/08/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Minims® Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose and Minims® Proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose are in limited supply until early October 2023.
- Where stock is unavailable, unlicensed supplies of proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative: benzalkonium chloride) may be sourced, lead times vary.
- Minims® Tetracaine Hydrochloride 0.5% w/v and 1% w/v eye drop solution remain available but can only cover normal demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians/prescribers should:

- reserve stock of Minims® oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% and Minims proxymetacaine 0.5% for urgent procedures, patients who require preservative-free formulations, and for children;
- where there are insufficient stocks available consider prescribing unlicensed proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative, benzalkonium chloride) ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients. Clinicians should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Supporting Information below).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Minims® Oxybuprocaine hydrochloride 0.4% and Minims® Proxymetacaine 0.5% are both used as ocular anaesthetics.

Imports of proxymetacaine hydrochloride 0.5% eye drop solution have been sourced. This presentation contains the preservative benzalkonium chloride, which may cause hypersensitivity reactions.

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

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

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

- Target Healthcare have confirmed they can source unlicensed proxymetacaine hydrochloride 0.5% eye drops solution (10 x 10ml) (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant regulatory, professional and Trust guidance and 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),

Links

[SmPC - Minims Oxybuprocaine Hydrochloride 0.4% w/v](#)

[SmPC - Minims Proxymetacaine Hydrochloride 0.5% w/v, Eye drops solution](#)

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
Midlands	Andi Swain (East Midlands)	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/2023/079

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.