

The latest pre-Brexit drug shortages include:

- Diamorphine 5mg injection: “manufacturing issues” until early October 2019 but there are stocks of all other strengths.
- Adrenaline 1 in 1000, 1ml amps: all three suppliers have short-term supply problems.
- Brevinor (norethisterone 500micrograms and ethinylestradiol 35 microg): Pfizer is out of stock (OOS) until the end of October. There is no bioequivalent COC available.
- Loestrin 20 and Loestrin 30 tablets Galen Ltd is OOS and unable to provide a resupply date.
- Noriday (norethisterone) 350 microg tablets: Pfizer, the supplier has advised that due to a delay at the factory it will be OOS until end of September. UKMI have advised that there are no exact equivalent preparations in the UK and clinicians should refer to CKS guidance for advice on alternative POPs:
- Norimin (ethinylestradiol/norethisterone) 0.035mg/1mg tabs: Pfizer the supplier says for the reason above Norimin will also be OOS until the end of September. There are no exact equivalent preparations to Norimin available in the UK but other ethinylestradiol and norethisterone OCP products should be available.
- Fluoxetine: Morningside & Advanz suppliers of fluoxetine 10mg caps are OOS until end of October and November respectively. Advanz, sole supplier of fluoxetine 30mg and 40mg caps is OOS until end of October 2019. Fluoxetine 20mg capsules remain available.
- Mianserin (remember that?) is OOS for the rest of the year. DHSC advice is “Patients who have been prescribed mianserin for < 6 months 1. GP to start mirtazapine at a low dose depending on clinical judgement and the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). Patients who have been prescribed mianserin for > 6 months 1. GP to start mirtazapine at a low dose depending on clinical judgement and the SPC 2. Seek specialist secondary care advice on management options.”
- Capsaicin (Zacin) 0.025%/(Axsain) 0.075% cream: Teva the sole supplier is OOS until at least November 2019. Specialist import companies tell DHSC that unlicensed imports can be found. For pharmacies to dispense an unlicensed drug, FP10s must indicate that a special is required by the GP annotating the prescription with the words “special order.” For patients unsuitable for an unlicensed import UKMI’s memo on alternative treatments simply recounts all the different analgesics and neuropathic agents.
- Efudix (fluorouracil) 5% cream. Mylan the sole supplier are OOS until the end of September.
- Emerade 500 and 300 microgram adrenaline auto-injector devices (which were recommended when Epipens were scarce): Bausch & Lomb UK, the sole suppliers are experiencing “short-term disruption” but the resupply date is TBC. Emerade 150s remain available. Epipen 300 IS now available but Jext 300 (another swap from Epipen)will be limited until mid-October.