Department of Health & Social Care

NHS

Supply Disruption Alert

SDA/2020/012(U) Issued: 08/10/2020

Lithium carbonate (Priadel®) 200mg and 400mg modified release tablets – Supply Disruption Update

This alert contains up to date information following Essential Pharma's decision to reverse the discontinuation of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets and supersedes SDA/2020/012. For reference please find the original SDA here.

Updated Information

The information in this alert provides an update to SDA/2020/012 issued on 21st August 2020.

Essential Pharma has informed the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) of its decision to reverse the discontinuation of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK market with immediate effect, whilst facilitating pricing discussions. As such the discontinuation notice issued to DHSC earlier this year has been withdrawn.

In light of this, clinicians across all healthcare settings are advised that there is no longer a need to implement system wide switching of patients from Priadel tablets to an alternative lithium carbonate preparation until further notice.

Essential Pharma has confirmed supplies of Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets are sufficient to meet current UK demand and is working to ensure further stocks are available to maintain supply after April 2021.

All Patients who require lithium treatment should now continue to be managed in line with usual clinical practice underpinned by the relevant NICE guidance.

Although DHSC cannot confirm a discontinuation will not take place in future, it is important to note that under the Health Service Products (Provision and Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2018, marketing authorisation holders must provide the DHSC a minimum of six months' notice of an intention to discontinue a product from the UK market.

UPDATE: Ordering of Priadel tablets

Whilst Priadel 200mg and 400mg tablets do remain available, Essential Pharma are aware that ordering quotas have been exceeded earlier than expected, resulting in limited supplies available across the UK. Ordering quotas will remain in place across wholesalers (based on historic demand) for the foreseeable future to ensure supplies continue to be available for all patients. Please note, quotas are reset on the 1st of each month.

For those with insufficient supplies of Priadel tablets who require stock urgently and cannot wait until the 1st of each month, please contact Movianto directly (tel: 01234 248 500 / e-mail: orders.UK@movianto.com). Please note, you will be required to create a Movianto account to obtain supplies.

UPDATE: Export of lithium carbonate products

Lithium carbonate has been added to the parallel export restriction list (8th September 2020) to ensure supplies remain available for the UK.

UPDATE: Supply of lithium carbonate tablets

Brand	Salt	Strength	Presentation	Availability
Priadel®	Lithium Carbonate	200mg	Modified-release tablets	Currently Available
Priadel®	Lithium Carbonate	400mg	Modified-release tablets	Currently Available
Essential Pharma*	Lithium Carbonate	250mg	Film-coated (f/c) tablets	Currently Available
Camcolit®	Lithium Carbonate	400mg	Modified-release tablets	Currently Available
Liskonum®	Lithium Carbonate	450mg	Modified-release tablets	Currently Available

Supporting Information

Summary of Product Characteristics for remaining lithium presentations can be found at the following:

- Priadel® 200mg prolonged-release tablets
- Priadel® 400mg prolonged-release tablets
- Camcolit® 400 mg, controlled release Lithium Carbonate
- Lithium Carbonate Essential Pharma 250 mg film-coated tablets
- Liskonum® 450mg tablets

Distribution

Trusts (NHS boards in Scotland)

CAS and SABS (NI) liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Chief pharmacists
- Clinical governance leads
- Clinical Procurement Specialists
- Community hospitals
- Community nurses
- District nurses
- Hospital pharmacies
- Hospital pharmacists
- Immunologists
- Medical directors
- Mental Health Trusts
- Mental Health Specialists
- Outpatient clinics
- Pharmaceutical advisors
- Pharmacists
- Gynaecologists
- Psychiatrists
- Haematologists

NHS England and NHS Improvement regional teams: For onward distribution to Community Pharmacists.

General Practice: For onward distribution to all relevant staff including GPs, Practice Managers and Practice Nurses.

Independent distribution: Establishments registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) (England only)

Enquiries

Send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Supply Resilience Team, quoting reference number SDA/2020/012(U) Email: supplyresiliencemd@dhsc.gov.uk