

Supply Disruption Alert

SDA/2021/002 (U)

Issued: 13/04/2021

Propofol emulsion for infusion and injection (all strengths) – Supply Disruption Update

This alert contains up to date information following the much-improved supply picture of all strengths of propofol emulsion for infusion and injection and supersedes SDA/2021/002. For reference please find the original SDA [here](#).

Updated Information

There has been a significant decrease in demand for propofol as COVID-19 patient numbers in hospitals have fallen over recent weeks alongside expedited deliveries by suppliers at higher volumes than originally anticipated. The supply picture of propofol high volume presentations (listed below) is therefore much improved:

- Propofol 1% 100ml vials;
- Propofol 1% 50ml vials; and
- Propofol 2% 50ml vials.

In light of this, organisations are no longer required to prioritise the use of propofol for induction of anaesthesia, target-controlled infusion for procedural sedation or critical care sedation, or limit use of propofol for total intravenous anaesthesia to patients for whom there is a clear indication.

Additionally, organisations will no longer need to prepare to switch between different concentrations of high volume propofol or need to use low volume presentations.

Organisations should continue to order a maximum of four days' supply in line with current national recommendations.

NHSE/I will continue to closely monitor the national supply position of propofol and reserve the right to reinstate the previous advice if the position changes.

Distribution

Trusts (NHS boards in Scotland and Wales)

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

- A&E consultants
- A&E departments
- A&E directors
- A&E nurses
- Adult intensive care units
- Anaesthesia, directors of
- Anaesthetic medical staff
- Anaesthetic nursing staff
- Anaesthetists
- Cardiologists
- Cardiology departments
- Cardiology nurses
- Cardiology, directors of
- Cardiothoracic departments
- Cardiothoracic surgeons
- Cardiothoracic surgery directors
- Chief pharmacists
- Clinical governance leads
- Clinical Procurement Specialists
- District nurses
- Endoscopy units
- Hospital at home units
- Hospital pharmacies
- Hospital pharmacists
- Immunologists
- Intensive care medical staff/paediatrics
- Intensive care nursing staff (adult)
- Intensive care nursing staff (paediatric)
- Intensive care units
- Intensive care, directors of
- IV nurse specialists
- Intensive care, directors of
- Obstetricians
- Obstetrics and gynaecology departments
- Obstetrics and gynaecology directors
- Obstetrics departments
- Obstetrics nurses
- Paediatric intensive care units
- Paediatric medicine, directors of
- Palliative care teams
- Pharmaceutical advisors
- Pharmacists
- Purchasing managers
- Radiology departments
- Theatre managers
- Theatre nurses

Independent distribution

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

- Hospitals in the independent sector
- Independent treatment centres
- Nursing agencies
- Private medical practitioners

Enquiries

England

Enquiries from NHS trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your trust pharmacy team which will escalate issues to the Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist and national teams if required.

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All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicines Supply Team, quoting reference number **SDA/2021/002(U)**.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk