

To: Community Pharmacies

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25th February 2019

Dear Colleague

METOPROLOL 50MG AND 100MG SUPPLY ISSUE

DHSC has been made aware of an ongoing supply issue with the following two products:

- Metoprolol 50mg tablets
- Metoprolol 100mg tablets.

The issue has been caused because of some manufacturers discontinuing the products and others having supply difficulties.

Milpharm/Aurobindo, are currently the sole supplier of both presentations to the UK market. Supplies of both presentations are currently available but may be limited, further stock is arriving over the coming weeks however supply is likely to be intermittent for a number of months.

If patients are having difficulty obtaining metoprolol, they may need to be switched by their GP to an appropriate alternative treatment.

Suppliers of alternative beta blockers have been contacted to determine if they can meet any additional demand and currently, the manufacturer of carvedilol has indicated it would be unable to meet demand if patients were switched to this product. Manufacturers of bisoprolol, atenolol and propranolol have indicated they have capacity to support any additional demand on their products.

DHSC are continuing to work with the manufacturers Milpharm /Aurobindo, to expedite future deliveries will continue to monitor the

overall situation, and the HSCB Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team will continue to monitor the situation and issue advice to GPs and community pharmacies as necessary in the coming weeks.

If you have any queries about the supply of metoprolol please contact your local HSCB Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', written in a cursive style.

Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

CC. Cathy Harrison, Acting Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, DoH
Chris Garland, Principal Pharmaceutical Officer, DoH
Veranne Lynch, Drug Tariff Co-ordinator, HSCB
Noel Dunn, Deputy Regional Pharmaceutical Officer, NHSCT