

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride**



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 1/2021

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts
GP Medical Advisers, Health and Social Care Board
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (*for onward distribution to practice staff*)
Director of Integrated Care, Health and Social Care Board
Chief Executive RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)
Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Health and Social Care Board (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*)

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 1/2021

Date: 5 January 2021

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

LITHIUM CARBONATE (PRIADEL®) 200MG AND 400MG MODIFIED RELEASE TABLETS – UPDATED SUPPLY DISRUPTION ALERT

This letter contains up to date information following an agreement on price between the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Essential Pharma and is an update to our previous letter ([HSS\(MD\) 71/2020](#)) issued 12 October 2020.

Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets remain available to order from wholesalers.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have agreed a revised price for Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets with Essential Pharma.

The following NHS list prices have been agreed:

- Priadel® MR 200mg x 100 tablets £7.50
- Priadel® MR 400mg x 100 tablets £8.50

Essential Pharma have issued a legally binding commitment with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to continue to supply Priadel® tablets for a minimum of five years to the UK, thereby securing the long-term availability of this crucial medicine. Further information can be found [here](#).

Although DHSC cannot confirm a discontinuation will not take place in future, it is important to note that under the current 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.

Action for healthcare professionals

- 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.
- All patients who are prescribed lithium treatment should now continue to be managed in line with usual clinical practice underpinned by the relevant NICE guidance.
- Patients who have been switched to alternative brands of lithium should be given the option of switching back to Priadel® brand if they have experienced problems with the alternative brand of lithium.
- Essential Pharma have advised that ordering quotas will remain in place across wholesalers (based on historic demand) for the foreseeable future. Please note, quotas are reset on the 1st of each month.

Supply of lithium carbonate tablets

The availability of all lithium carbonate products are as follows:

Brand	Salt	Strength	Availability
Priadel®	Lithium Carbonate	200mg	In stock
Priadel®	Lithium Carbonate	400mg	In stock
Essential Pharma*	Lithium Carbonate	250mg	In stock
Camcolit®	Lithium Carbonate	400mg	In stock
Liskonum®	Lithium Carbonate	450mg	In stock

*This product was previously Camcolit® brand and whilst genericised in 2015, these continue to have Camcolit inscribed on the tablet.

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](#)

Please refer to the attached DHSC Supply Disruption Alert for further information.
This alert can also be accessed at:

<https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewAndAcknowledgment/viewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103133>

Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer



MRS CATHY HARRISON
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Circulation List

Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency (for onward distribution to all relevant staff)

Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts

Director of Social Care and Children, HSCB

Family Practitioner Service Leads, Health and Social Care Board (for cascade to GP Out of Hours services)

Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (for onward distribution to all relevant Consultants including mental health, neurology, A&E staff, hospital pharmacy)

Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives)

RQIA (for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals)

Medicines Management Pharmacists, HSC Board (for cascade to prescribing advisers)

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

Professor Sonja McIlfatrick, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster

Caroline Lee, CEC

Donna Gallagher, Open University

Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UU

Professor Colin McCoy, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB

Professor Colin Adair, Director of the NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development, QUB

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>

Supply Disruption Alert - Update

SDA/2020/012(U2)

Issued: 04/01/2021

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

This alert contains up to date information following an agreement on price between the Department of Health and Social Care and Essential Pharma. This SDA supersedes [SDA 2020 012 U](#) (issued on 08 October 2020).

Summary

Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets remain available to order from wholesalers.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have agreed a revised price for Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets with Essential Pharma.

The following NHS list prices have been agreed:

- Priadel® MR 200mg x 100 tablets £7.50
- Priadel® MR 400mg x 100 tablets £8.50

Essential Pharma have issued a legally binding commitment with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to continue to supply Priadel® tablets for a minimum of five years to the UK, thereby securing the long-term availability of this crucial medicine. Further information can be found [here](#).

Although DHSC cannot confirm a discontinuation will not take place in future, it is important to note that under the current 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.

Action

- 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.
- All patients who are prescribed lithium treatment should now continue to be managed in line with usual clinical practice underpinned by the relevant NICE guidance.
- Patients who have been switched to alternative brands of lithium should be given the option of switching back to Priadel® brand if they have experienced problems with the alternative brand of lithium.
- Essential Pharma have advised that ordering quotas will remain in place across wholesalers (based on historic demand) for the foreseeable future. Please note, quotas are reset on the 1st of each month.
- If pharmacies have insufficient supplies of Priadel® tablets and 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.

Supply of lithium carbonate tablets

The availability of all lithium carbonate products are as follows:

Brand	Salt	Strength	Availability
Priadel®	Lithium Carbonate	200mg	In stock
Priadel®	Lithium Carbonate	400mg	In stock
Essential Pharma*	Lithium Carbonate	250mg	In stock
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- [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(U2)
Email: supplyresiliencemd@dhsc.gov.uk.