

To:  
All GP Practices  
All Community Pharmacies

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24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Colleague

## **MICROGYNON 30 TABLETS AND OVRANETTE TABLETS SUPPLY ISSUE**

HSCB has been informed that Bayer that due to capacity constraints at their manufacturing site in Germany, Microgynon 30 tablets will be out of stock from late May until w/c 8th July (residual stock in wholesalers may last until early June). HSCB have been informed that Pfizer will be out of stock of Ovranelle tablets from early June until August 2019 due to capacity constraints. Both Microgynon 30 and Ovranelle contain ethinylestradiol 30 microgram/levonorgestrel 150microgram.

There are several alternative suppliers of ethinylestradiol 30 microgram/levonorgestrel 150microgram tablets. Please note that \*Rigevidon, which is the NI formulary 1st line choice of monophasic standard strength (COC) is equivalent to both Microgynon 30 and Ovranelle available at:

<http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/Pages/default.aspx>

HSCB has been informed by DHSC that they have been in contact with all the alternative suppliers and can confirm that there are sufficient supplies available from certain suppliers to maintain demand throughout the duration of this supply issue.

See Table 1 for details:

**Table 1:**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Supply situation</b>
*Rigevidon	Consilient	Currently available and able to support increased demand – advised to consider using this product if clinically appropriate.
Levest	Morningside	Currently available and able to support increased demand – advised to consider using this product if clinically appropriate.
Elevin	Med-Rx	Currently available and able to support increased demand – advised to consider using this product if clinically appropriate
Ovranette	Pfizer	Expected out of stock from early June – August 2019.
Microgynon 30	Bayer	Expected out of stock from late May – w/c 8th July 2019.
Microgynon 30 ED	Bayer	Currently available but supplier unable to support additional demand, advised not to switch to this product
Leandra	MedRx	Currently available but supplier unable to support additional demand, advised not to switch to this product
Maexeni	Lupin	Currently available but supplier unable to support additional demand, advised not to switch to this product

In addition to oral contraception, Microgynon 30 and Ovranette tablets are licensed for recognised gynaecological indications. Levest, Rigevidon and Elevin are solely licensed for oral contraception, therefore use in other indications would be off-label.

If patients are having difficulty obtaining Microgynon 30 or Ovranette tablets, they may need to be switched by their GP to an appropriate alternative treatment.

Prescribers are advised not to switch to Microgynon 30 ED, Leandra or Maexeni during the affected period as they are unable to support any increase in demand.

If you have any queries about the supply of Microgynon 30 or Ovranette tablets please contact your local HSCB Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely,



**Assistant Director of Integrated Care  
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**

CC. Cathy Harrison, Acting Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, DoH  
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