

21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Dear all

**Re: Diamorphine 5mg Injection supply issue (Accord and Wockhardt)**

DHSC and NHSE have been notified by Accord and Wockhardt that they are experiencing issues with the manufacture and availability of diamorphine 5mg injection. Based on current forecasted demand across primary and secondary care in the UK, we are likely to go out of stock of diamorphine 5mg injection by **27 May 2019** with a resupply date of **w/c 5 August 2019**. All other strengths of diamorphine injection are not affected by this issue.

We have been working closely with both suppliers of diamorphine and there are sufficient supplies of diamorphine 10mg injection to support forecasted use of diamorphine 5mg injection for primary care including hospices. Diamorphine 10mg injection will be available to order from usual wholesalers.

Please be aware that, secondary care Trusts will be undertaking a switch to other opioid injections, mainly Morphine Sulphate 10mg injection to ensure diamorphine 10mg will remain available for primary care. Secondary care Trusts supporting hospices will be allocated sufficient supplies of diamorphine 10mg injection to support local hospice requirements. The following clinical memo has been developed by UKMI to support secondary care with this: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-diamorphine-5mg/>

**Recommended Local Action for Primary Care**

- Please share this information with relevant networks locally including GP practices, community pharmacies and substance misuse networks.
- Prescribers should be made aware that only diamorphine 10mg ampoules will be available during this period and ensure that prescriptions specify this preparation. Prescribers should take extra care when calculating the dose to be administered.
- Locally, health care professionals should follow local controlled drug policies for the safe management and disposal of excess waste of diamorphine during this time and should ensure that:
  - Any wastage should be rendered irretrievable and must be disposed of.
  - Clear records should be kept of what was administered, and what was discarded and should be witnessed wherever possible.
- Please work with your Controlled Drug Accountable Officer where necessary.

If you have any concerns around patient safety, please do not hesitate to contact your local Medication Safety Officer who will escalate to Nicola Wake (Medication Safety Lead, Specialist Pharmacy Service).

Regards,

**Sarah McAleer**

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