



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/015

Nadolol 80mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 08/02/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Nadolol 80mg tablets are out of stock from early March until early May 2024.
- Alternative beta-blockers remain available and can support increase demand.
- Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- not initiate any new patients on nadolol until the supply issue has resolved;
- prioritise remaining supplies of nadolol 80mg tablets for patients with ion channelopathies;
- at the earliest opportunity, consider prescribing alternative beta-blockers where appropriate for patients being treated for all other indications, referring to local formularies, and taking into account the indication, treatment history, intolerances and co-morbidities;
- where treatment is for ion channelopathies, and the patient is unable to obtain supplies of nadolol 80mg tablets, contact the secondary care cardiology team for further advice on management options. Trusts can consider utilising mutual aid to obtain supplies where needed; and
- consider prescribing unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Nadolol is a non-cardioselective beta-blocker licensed for the:

- treatment of angina pectoris.
- treatment of essential hypertension
- treatment of cardiac tachyarrhythmias
- prophylactic management of migraine headache.
- relief of the symptoms of hyperthyroidism and the pre-operative preparation of patients for surgery.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Ion channelopathies

Ion channelopathies, such as long QT syndrome (LQTS) and catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia (CPVT) are a group of rare genetic conditions which affect ion channels in the heart. Specialist has advised that an international expert group consensus document highlights importance of nadolol for CPVT patients and some cases of LQTS. There is no equivalent beta-blocker to nadolol due to its potency and long duration of action. Its pharmacokinetic properties allow once daily dosing which may provide a therapeutic advantage compared to other beta-blockers. The most appropriate alternative would be propranolol, another non-selective beta-blocker, but with a shorter half-life. The protective effect of the non-cardioselective beta-blockers (nadolol and propranolol) exceeds the efficacy of cardioselective beta-blockers. Switching agents will require input from secondary care cardiology team.

Links to further information

[SmPC nadolol 80mg tablets](#)

[BNF Nadolol](#)

[Practice guidelines: Beta-blocker therapy for long QT syndrome and catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia](#)

[BNF Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed nadolol 80mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Target Healthcare

Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:

- [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:

- Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
 - Nadolol 80mg tablets (imported)
- Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: “**special order**”.

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.