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Dyddiad / Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

**CPhO 2020 026**

**(Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for fluoxetine 30mg capsules and Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg)**

**This alert has been cascaded to the following:**

All Wales GP Practice Managers  
All Wales GP OOHs  
All Wales Dispensing Practices  
All Wales Pharmacies  
All Wales HB Primary Care Managers  
All Wales HB Pharmacy & Prescribing Advisors  
All Wales Medical Committees  
All Wales Pharmacy Committees  
All Wales Prisons – Healthcare Managers  
All Wales Hospices  
All Wales Independent Hospitals

**Prif Swyddog Fferyllol  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## **MEDICINES SHORTAGES**

**Distribution:** As Annex 1

**From:** Andrew Evans, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

**Date:** 21 October 2020

**Reference:** CPhO/MedsLet/2020/26

**Category:** Level 2

**Title:** Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) issued for fluoxetine 30mg capsules and Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg

**For Action by:**

- All General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by relevant staff and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Action and information as below.
- Dispensing General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'. Action and information as below.
- Community Pharmacists. Action and information as below.
- Chief Pharmacists. Action and information as below.

**Timeframe:** With immediate effect

**For Information:** See Annex 1- Distribution List

## **SUMMARY:**

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) have been issued for fluoxetine 30mg capsules and Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg.

- The fluoxetine 30mg capsules SSP allows community pharmacists in Wales to supply patients with 1 x 20mg fluoxetine capsule and 1 x 10mg fluoxetine capsule OR 3 x 10mg fluoxetine capsules when presented with a prescription for fluoxetine 30mg capsules. This SSP is due to expire on 22 December 2020.
- The Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg SSP allows community pharmacists in Wales to supply sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant (GR) tablets when presented with a prescription for Salazopyrin EN tablets 500mg. This SSP is due to expire on 4 December 2020.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Advanz, the sole supplier of fluoxetine 30mg capsules in the UK, will be out of stock until mid-December 2020. Fluoxetine 10mg and 20mg capsules remain available.

Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg are currently out of stock. Pfizer anticipate this supply issue will be resolved by early December 2020. Generic sulfasalazine gastro-resistant (GR) tablets are available.

Primary care prescribing data indicate there are approximately 100 and 2,200 prescriptions per month in Wales for fluoxetine 30mg capsules and Salazopyrin®-EN tablets 500mg respectively.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION:**

An SSP is a tool to support the management of medicines shortages. It enables community pharmacists to supply a specified medicine or device in accordance with a protocol rather than a prescription, with the patient's consent and, without needing to seek authorisation from the prescriber.

The SSPs for fluoxetine 30mg capsules and Salazopyrin® EN, along with the most recent versions of all SSPs can be found on the NHSBSA webpage:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>

Pharmacists should refer to this website to ensure they are using the current SSP as an SSP may need to be updated following issue. The NHSBSA webpage also indicates the time period during which an SSP is valid. Should the current end dates change, the SSP will be updated accordingly.

To support prescribers and pharmacists two documents have been prepared providing information and guidance on SSPs. These are a short FAQs document and more detailed operational guidance. Both are available in the Medicines Shortage Log which can be accessed via the NHS intranet:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=428&pid=77202>

**QUERIES:**

For all queries:

[Medicinesshortages@gov.wales](mailto:Medicinesshortages@gov.wales)

Information about current medicines shortages can be found at:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=428&pid=77202>

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Evans**

Prif Swyddog Fferyllol / Chief Pharmaceutical  
Officer/  
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**Anne Hinchliffe**

Fferyllydd Arbenigol Cymru Gyfan –  
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