

SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL: LEVOTHYROXINE 12.5MCG TABLETS

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablets, a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued as of **Wednesday 3 February 2021** (current expiry date 5 March 2021)

All community pharmacies will have received an email from NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership via ENAS to inform them that the SSP has been published on the NHS BSA website.

SSP010 provides pharmacists with procedures to follow in providing a suitable alternative product. For every 2 x 12.5cg levothyroxine tablets originally prescribed 1 x 25mcg levothyroxine tablet must be supplied, in response to the serious shortage affecting the 12.5mcg tablets: (Please click on the link below for the full details):

[SSP010 Levothyroxine 12.5mcg](#)

The SSP recommendations:

The SSP provides that when the original dosage regime is 1 x levothyroxine 12.5mcg tablet daily, the dosage regime will be amended to:

1 x 25mcg levothyroxine tablets to be taken on alternate days*

(* Levothyroxine has a long half-life and because of this it is not uncommon for patients to have varying doses on different days)

Endorsement Requirements:

In the case where a substitution is made then please **sort these prescriptions into Group 1A for submission** to NWSSP Prescription Pricing. These continue to follow the criteria for this group as they are not dispensed as originally prescribed.

Please ensure that for any substitution it is endorsed "**NCSO**" and with the following details if they are substituted or relevant to the particular protocol (i.e. all or one of the following may be required):

- Drug Name
- Brand Name/Manufacturer/Wholesaler
- Pack size

- Form
- Strength
- Dose
- Quantity
- Price

It is also very important that the 2D barcode is not obscured.

Please contact Shared Services with any queries: 029 2090 0430 or Prescribing.management@wales.nhs.uk

Fees:

The fees payable in Wales for SSP are those currently paid in England and as stated in the Drug Tariff:

Any drugs, appliances or chemical reagents, which are supplied in line with a Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP), are to be reimbursed and remunerated as if they were dispensed in line with a prescription with the exception that items supplied in line with a SSP will attract an additional fee as per Part IIIA (£5.35) and the reimbursement price will account for VAT payment. To that end where a prescription or a prescription item is referred to in the Drug Tariff in the context of reimbursement or remuneration for dispensed drugs, appliances or chemical reagents, this is to be treated as applying to supply in line with a SSP

NHS Website in respect of Shortages:

An NHS Wales website has been set up in respect of all shortages:
<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=428&pid=77202>

N.B. this site is an NHS intranet site and can only be accessed via an N3 connection.

Further Guidance

An Operational guidance document and FAQ document in relation to Serious Shortage Protocols have been created by Welsh Guidance and added to the CPW website [here](#)

All information in respect of Serious Shortage Protocols currently in use in Wales can be found on the NHS BSA's dedicated Serious Shortage Protocol page: [here](#)

JUDY THOMAS
DIRECTOR OF CONTRACTOR SERVICES
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