

25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Colleagues,

### **Seroxat (paroxetine) 20mg/10ml oral solution**

Paroxetine 20mg/10ml oral solution will be out of stock until January 2020 due to manufacturing delays. Paroxetine tablets remain available from various suppliers.

#### **Action required by recipients:**

For patients who do not have sufficient supplies of paroxetine 20mg/10ml oral solution for the duration of the expected out of stock period, clinicians should consider the alternatives below as soon as possible.

- Prescribing paroxetine tablets in place of oral solution.
  - UK Medicines Information (UKMi) have advised that tablets can be crushed and mixed with water for administration, however this would be an off-label use. The crushed tablets are bitter and have a slight local anaesthetic effect.
- Prescribing an unlicensed preparation of paroxetine 20mg/10ml oral solution, which is currently available to order from the following importers – *Clinigen, WEP Clinical, Mawdsleys and Target Healthcare Ltd.*
  - Clinicians will need to work with local pharmacies to understand which specific unlicensed products can be sourced and lead times. The price of specials varies.
  - 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.
    - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
    - [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 (RPS)
  - In order for pharmacies to dispense an unlicensed drug, FP10 prescriptions must indicate that a special is required/prescribed by the GP. This could include the GP annotating the prescription with the following wording: “**special order**”.

GP practices may want to consider using local IT systems to identify patients who may be impacted by this shortage and to manage these patients by prescribing paroxetine tablets or prescribing unlicensed products, where appropriate.

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk)

We hope this information is helpful and thank you for your assistance with this issue.

Yours sincerely,  
DHSC Medicines Supply Team