

## DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

### Selegiline Tablets (all strengths)

#### ISSUE

- There is a current shortage of selegiline 5mg and 10mg tablets with supplies not anticipated until end of July at the earliest.
- Pharmacy have limited supplies remaining

#### ADVICE / ALTERNATIVE

- Selegiline, an MAO-B inhibitor, is licensed for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, or symptomatic parkinsonism. It may be used alone in early Parkinson's disease for symptomatic relief to delay the need for levodopa, or as an adjunct to levodopa.
- Patients admitted on selegiline who do not have a supply and where pharmacy are unable to provide a supply must be reviewed and an alternative prescribed.
- Where clinicians are confident to safely switch patients to an alternative therapy, they should:
  - consider prescribing rasagiline 1mg tablets (an alternative MAO-B inhibitor), refer to the BNF for full prescribing information
  - counsel patients on the change to treatment and dosing, including reassurance that rasagiline is a similar agent to selegiline and advise them to report worsening of disease control, non-motor symptoms, mood, and/or side effects;
  - signpost patients to Parkinson's UK helpline for further support/information, if required;
  - inform the patients' specialist teams that treatment has been switched to rasagiline;
  - liaise with the patient's specialist team for advice on management options if patients experience a deterioration in disease control or troublesome side effects after switching.
- Unlicensed selegiline options are available however these must be discussed with a pharmacist before utilising

#### ACTIONS

- Do not initiate patients on selegiline
- Where appropriate switch patients with no supply of selegiline to rasagiline following the guidance above
- Where a switch is not appropriate contact your ward pharmacist/the pharmacy department to discuss unlicensed options

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD PHARMACY TEAM  
OR THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT (City ext. 5263; Sandwell ext. 3783)**

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