

## DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

### Paracetamol 1g in 100mL Intravenous Infusion

#### ISSUE

Paracetamol 1g in 100mL intravenous infusion is out of stock and there are expected ongoing stock issues until 30 November 2023.

#### ADVICE/ALTERNATIVE

- Paracetamol infusion is licensed for the short-term treatment of moderate pain especially following surgery, and for the short-term treatment of fever, when intravenous administration is clinically justified by an urgent need to treat pain or hyperthermia and/or when other routes of administration are not possible.
- [NICE guidance](#) on perioperative care in adults recommends oral paracetamol before and after surgery, including dental surgery, irrespective of pain severity, and intravenous paracetamol should only be used if patients cannot take oral medicine.
- Alternative formulations are available and include:
  - Suppositories
  - Oral liquid
  - Soluble tablets
  - Orodispersible tablets
  - Tablets
- Refer to the [BNF](#) for full prescribing information.

#### ACTIONS

- SWB Pharmacy have procured additional stock of suppositories and will procure the IV infusion when stocks are available however supply will be intermittent and there is a need to preserve stocks of IV infusion in order to treat those patients where alternative formulations are unsuitable.
- Ward and department stock lists and locations and levels have been reviewed to ensure the most appropriate use of stock
- Ensure only patients that clinically require IV therapy are initiated paracetamol IV infusion.
- Review all patients on paracetamol IV infusion to determine if this is still clinically appropriate and switch to alternative formulations wherever possible.

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

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**Sandwell and West Birmingham**

NHS Trust