

# DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

## Supply Shortage

DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/FORM:

**Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)**  
**Creon 10,000 and 25,000 gastro-resistant capsules**

### **PROBLEM**

- Creon® 10,000 and 25,000 gastro-resistant capsules are in limited supply until 2 January 2026.
- Nutrizym® 22 capsules are out of stock until 16 August 2024.
- Pancrex V® capsules and powder remain available but are unable to support an increase in demand.
- PERT is indicated for the treatment of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency such as in cystic fibrosis, pancreatic cancer, and pancreatitis.
- There is no clinical alternative to PERT.
- Unlicensed imports of Creon® capsules and alternative brands of PERT may be sourced, lead times vary.

### **ADVICE / ALTERNATIVE**

Clinicians/prescribers should review all patients prescribed PERT and:

- Prescribe a maximum of one month's supply at a time to help ensure there is sufficient stock for all patients.
- Prioritise Creon 10,000 for paediatric patients and patients unable to take Creon 25,000 e.g. patients with swallowing difficulties\*.
- Consider prescribing unlicensed imports of PERT only where licensed alternatives are unavailable.
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and the local NHS Trust and governance procedures on unlicensed medicines.
- Where PERT is prescribed for indications other than cystic fibrosis, clinicians and prescribers should consider\*:
  - prescribing a proton pump inhibitor or H2 receptor antagonist to optimise efficacy
  - if a dose reduction may be suitable for patients based on severity of symptoms
  - where symptoms remain despite a dose of  $\geq 10,000$  units lipase/kg/day or 100,000 units lipase with a meal, whether other causes of the symptoms should be investigated
  - prescribing medication to manage symptom control.

\*See Natient Patient Safety Alert NatPSA/2024/007/DHSC for further clinical information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM  
OR  
THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).  
OUT OF HOURS CONTACT THE ON-CALL PHARAMCIST**

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PATIENTS  
PEOPLE  
POPULATION

