

DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

Supply Shortage

DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/Form:

Triamcinolone acetonide suspension for injection vials (Kenalog 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl 50mg/5ml)

PROBLEM

- Triamcinolone acetonide suspension for injection vials (Kenalog 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl 50mg/5ml) are in short supply
- Anticipated resupply date for Kenalog and Adcortyl is 19 July 2024.

ADVICE

Clinicians in primary and secondary care should:

- Not initiate patients on Kenalog 40mg/1ml and Adcortyl 50mg/5ml until the shortage has resolved;
- Consider prescribing an alternative injectable corticosteroid which is able to support the market during this time with reference to local and national treatment guidelines, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, and is advised of the change in steroid preparation;
- Seek advice from specialists on management options, where the above options are not considered appropriate.

ALTERNATIVES

Licensed products that can support an increase in demand

The following parenteral steroid preparations remain available and can support increased demand:

Dexamethasone

Corticosteroid preparation(s):

- dexamethasone 3.3mg/1ml solution for injection
- dexamethasone 3.8mg/1ml solution for injection

Licensed indication: Endocrine disorders, non-endocrine corticosteroid-responsive conditions, palliative care, local administration for soft-tissue disorders, intra-articular disorders and certain skin disorders

Route of administration: Intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intra-articular, intralesional.

Hydrocortisone:

Corticosteroid preparation(s):

- Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection

Licensed indication: Any condition in which rapid and intense corticosteroid effect is required

Route of administration: Intravenous, intramuscular.

Methylprednisolone:

Corticosteroid preparation(s):

- Depo Medrone 40mg/1ml suspension for injection
- Solu Medrone 500mg and 1g powder and solvent for solution for injection vials

Licensed indication:

- Depo Medrone: Rheumatic disorders, collagen diseases/arteritis, dermatological diseases, allergic states, GI diseases, respiratory diseases, TB meningitis, soft-tissue disorders
- Solu Medrone: Any condition in which rapid and intense corticosteroid effect is required

Route of administration:

- Depo Medrone: intramuscular, intra-articular, peri-articular, intrabursal, intralesional or into the tendon sheath
- Solu Medrone: Intravenous, intramuscular

For primary care

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:

Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:

- Triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/ml solution for injection (imported)
- Triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/ml solution for injection (imported)

Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: “special order”.

Products that remain available but cannot support an increase in demand

Note the following preparations remain available but cannot support an increase in demand:

- hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml;
- Depo Medrone 120mg/3ml and 80mg/2ml;
- Solu Medrone 125mg, and methylprednisolone sodium succinate (Kent Pharma) 500mg and 1g.

Products that are out of stock

Triamcinolone hexacetonide 20mg/ml suspension for injection is out of stock with no confirmed resupply date (further information can be found here: [Shortage of Triamcinolone hexacetonide 20mg/1ml suspension for injection ampoules](#)).

Solu Medrone 40mg powder and solvent for solution for injection is out of stock until July 2024.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Adcortyl is licensed for intra-articular use in relieving joint pain, swelling and stiffness and for intradermal use for treating certain skin conditions.

Kenalog is licensed for intra-articular use and also for administration by intramuscular injection for the treatment of conditions where sustained corticosteroid treatment is required. In practice, the use of Kenalog for treating hayfever is discouraged.

Key Resources

- [SmPC for triamcinolone acetonide \(Kenalog\) intra-articular/ intramuscular injection 40mg/ml](#)
- [SmPC for triamcinolone acetonide \(Adcortyl\) intra-articular/ intradermal injection 10mg/ml](#)
- [SmPC for dexamethasone 3.3mg/ml solution for injection or infusion](#)
- [SmPC for dexamethasone 3.8mg/ml solution for injection](#)
- [SmPC for hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection or infusion](#)
- [SmPC for methylprednisolone injections](#)
- [BNF triamcinolone acetonide](#)
- [BNF corticosteroids inflammatory disorders](#)
- [NICE CKS rheumatoid arthritis](#)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM
OR
THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).**

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