

# DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

## Supply Shortage

**DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/Form:**

**Kay-Cee-L (potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml) syrup**

### **PROBLEM**

- Kay-Cee-L (potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml) syrup will be out of stock from late September 2024.
- The anticipated re-supply date has not yet been confirmed.
- The supply disruption is caused by an amendment to the manufacturing process, requiring re-formulation, and revalidation of the product.

### **ADVICE**

Primary and Secondary care providers **MUST**:

1. Not initiate new patients on Kay-Cee-L syrup.
2. Review all patients currently prescribed Kay-Cee-L syrup to establish if potassium supplementation is still required, and switch to an alternative treatment, if considered necessary, ensuring no intolerance of excipients.
3. Patients requiring doses of less than 12mmol of potassium should be prescribed Kay-Cee-L syrup. However, note that the supplies remaining in Pharmacy (2 x 500ml bottles) have been quarantined for prioritisation of use in Neonates and Paediatrics.
4. Patients requiring doses of 12mmol potassium or more should be prescribed Sando-K effervescent tablets, where the dose can be rounded to the nearest whole tablet.
5. Clinicians should ensure any switch is clearly documented. Secondary care teams should inform primary care colleagues of any switches to a new product and any amendments to the patient's prescribed regimen in admission.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

- Sando-K (potassium bicarbonate 400mg and potassium chloride 600mg) effervescent tablets remain available and can support a full increase in demand. One effervescent tablet contains 12mmol potassium.
- Any remaining supplies of Kay-Cee-L syrup will need to be prioritised for patients requiring doses of less than 12mmol of potassium and where other preparations are not suitable.
- Note that the supplies we have remaining in Pharmacy have been quarantined for prioritisation of use in Neonates and Paediatrics.

- Care is needed to ensure selection of the most appropriate oral potassium supplement and delivery of the correct dosage.
- Unlicensed potassium chloride oral solutions manufactured within the UK are not available, however suppliers are currently trying to source preparations.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Key resources**

[National Patient Safety Alert for Kay-Cee-L Syrup](#)

[SmPC Sando-K effervescent tablets](#)

[BNF Potassium Chloride](#)

[BNFC Potassium Chloride](#)

[BNF Potassium Chloride with potassium bicarbonate](#)

[Medicines for Children: Potassium chloride for potassium depletion](#)

[Specialist Pharmacy Service: Managing the risks of using effervescent tablets in children](#)

[NPPG Guidance: Choosing an Oral Liquid Medicine for Children](#)

[NPPG Guidance: The Use of Calcium, Phosphate and Potassium supplementation in neonates and children](#)

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

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PATIENTS  
PEOPLE  
POPULATION

