



9 November 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Zonisamide capsules various strengths (Glenmark and Teva)**

**Priority: Level 2\* - update to MSAN(2020)89**

**Valid until: mid-February 2021**

#### **Issue**

1. Due to changes in the availability of zonisamide capsules from Teva UK and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, we have provided updated information within this communication
2. Please see a supply overview for zonisamide capsules below:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Current Stock Position</b>	<b>Anticipated resupply date</b>
Zonisamide 25 mg capsules	Eisai	In stock	N/A
	<b>Teva</b>	<b>Out of stock</b>	<b>Mid-February 2021</b>
	Glenmark	In stock	N/A
Zonisamide 50mg capsules	Eisai	In stock	N/A
	<b>Teva</b>	<b>Out of stock</b>	<b>Mid-February 2021</b>
	Glenmark	In stock	N/A
Zonisamide 100mg capsules	Eisai	In stock	N/A
	<b>Teva</b>	<b>Out of stock</b>	<b>Early December 2020</b>
	<b>Glenmark</b>	<b>Out of stock</b>	<b>Mid-November 2020</b>

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Where patients have insufficient supplies of any strength of zonisamide capsules (Teva or Glenmark) to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
  - work with local pharmacy teams to understand the availability of alternative manufacturer's zonisamide capsules and prescribe accordingly;
  - inform patients of the change in manufacturer's product and advise them to report any changes in seizure frequency to their GP; and
  - if further advice is needed, or complications arise advice should be sought from secondary care specialists.

#### **Additional Information**

4. Zonisamide is a category 2 anti-epileptic drug as designated by the MHRA. For these drugs the need for continued supply of a particular manufacturer's product should be based on clinical

judgement and consultation with the patient and/or carer considering factors such as seizure frequency and treatment history.

5. As a result of this shortage patients may have to switch to an alternative manufacturer's zonisamide capsules. Clinicians advise that prescribers should closely monitor patients for any changes in seizure frequency and/or breakthrough seizures when they are switched over to alternative manufacturer's zonisamide capsules.
6. Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on alternative preparations:
  - [Zonisamide BNF](#)
  - [Zonisamide capsules SmPC](#)
  - [The use of generic antiepileptics in patients with epilepsy](#)

### **Enquiries**

7. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).