



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/017

## Noradrenaline 4mg in 4ml Ampoule

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 06/04/2020

### Summary

- Noradrenaline is a critical care medicine being used in increasing quantities to support the management of patients with COVID-19.
- To ensure equitable supply nationally, noradrenaline (all formulations/presentations) will now be managed centrally working closely with the regional procurement leads in England and national procurement leads in the Devolved Administrations.
- NHSE/I have been working with suppliers and specialist importers to secure both licensed and unlicensed stock for the U.K.
- For the next 3 weeks the UK will be using noradrenaline (norepinephrine) base 4mg in 4ml ampoules from Pfizer. This is non-UK licensed stock.

### Actions Required

Regional and National Procurement leads should:

- Inform trusts and health boards of their 2-week allocation of Pfizer U.S. stock on 6 April 2020; and
- Inform trusts of their next allocation w/c 20 April 2020.

Pharmacy procurement and clinical teams should:

- Review the National QA assessment of the product circulated with this MSN and follow recommendations for trusts;
- Work with your Medicines use and Safety Officer to consider how you will safely manage this stock within your trust;
- Purchase 2 weeks' worth of allocated stock when available on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 from your local Alliance depot; and
- Order 1 further week's allocation w/c 20 April 2020 in line with further information from procurement leads.

### Supporting Information

- Limited UK licensed products remain in the supply chain. Further stock is coming into the UK and national and regional procurement leads will provide further information in the next few weeks.
- A poster has been created to highlight to clinical staff the importance of reading the product label. The poster can be found by following the attached link <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/drug-packaging-and-labelling-during-covid-19-poster-and-screensaver-for-teams/>

- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and/or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information.
  - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
  - [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
  - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society

## Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Procurement Lead and national teams if required.

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For the devolved nations please contact the following procurement leads.

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