



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/064

Docosate sodium 100mg capsules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 18/12/2020

Summary

- Limited supplies of docosate sodium 100mg capsules are available until April 2021.
- Docosate sodium 50mg/5ml oral solution remains available.

Actions Required:

If supplies of docosate sodium 100mg capsules are not available, clinicians should consider:

- reviewing if treatment is still required;
- switching to alternative laxative therapy (see supporting information below);
- prescribing docosate sodium 50mg/5ml oral solution where a change in laxative is not appropriate; and
- counselling patients on the different products and dosing regimen prescribed.

Supporting information

In the event that docosate sodium is unavailable, laxative choice is largely dictated by what the patient has tried before and finds acceptable. Please refer to the [BNF](#) or [BNFc](#) for information on alternative laxatives.

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>