



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2021/025

## Flixotide<sup>®</sup> (fluticasone propionate) 100 microgram Accuhaler

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 11/05/2021

### Summary:

- Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 100 microgram Accuhaler are out of stock until w/c 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.
- Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 125 microgram Evohaler remain available and able to support a full increase in demand.
- Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 50 microgram Evohaler is available and able to support a partial increase in demand.
- Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 50 microgram/dose Accuhaler is available and able to support a partial increase in demand.
- Unlicensed imports of fluticasone 100microgram/dose dry powder inhalers can be sourced. Lead times vary.

### Actions Required

- For patients with insufficient supplies until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
  - Review all patients and discuss treatment options with patients taking into account individual needs to recommend the most suitable option. Options include prescribing one month's supply of;
    - Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 50 microgram Evohaler OR Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 125 microgram Evohaler. Care should be taken to counsel patients on how to make up nearest equivalent dose (see supporting information below), or;
    - Flixotide<sup>®</sup> 50 microgram Accuhaler. Care should be taken to counsel patients on how to make up nearest equivalent dose (see supporting information below) or;
    - consider prescribing unlicensed imports of fluticasone propionate 100 microgram dry powder inhaler, if the above options are not appropriate (see supporting information below).
  - Liaise with local Pharmacy teams to understand local stock availability of alternate products; and review all patients after switching to monitor symptom control.

## Supporting Information

### Clinical information:

Clinicians are advised to take into consideration indications and age of patient when prescribing an alternative Flixotide preparation and follow the advice in the SmPC's are below;

Product and SmPC	Type	Availability	Additional counselling advice to consider
<a href="#">Flixotide® (fluticasone propionate) 50mcg Evohaler</a>	Metered Dose Inhaler	Able to support <u>partial</u> * uplift in demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Additional counselling to patients regarding switch between DPI to MDI and change in dose.</li><li>- Spacer may be required.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Flixotide® (fluticasone propionate) 125mcg Evohaler</a>	Metered Dose Inhaler	Able to support full uplift in demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Additional counselling to patients regarding switch between DPI to MDI and change in dose.</li><li>- Spacer may be required.</li><li>- Please note, patients will be receiving a higher dose of fluticasone propionate. This is unlikely to be clinically significant for the duration of this shortage.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Flixotide® (fluticasone propionate) 50mcg Accuhaler</a>	Dry Powdered Inhaler	Able to support a <u>partial</u> * uplift in demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Additional counselling to patients regarding change in dose.</li></ul>

\* Prescribers should liaise with local pharmacy teams to understand stock availability

### Switching from dry powder inhalers to a pressurised metered dose inhaler:

For patients where Flixotide® (50 microgram and 125 microgram) Evohaler is considered appropriate, additional counselling will be required regarding the different method of administration and/or dosing regimen prescribed.

For children who are prescribed an alternate fluticasone propionate inhaler, the child should be present during counselling to ensure inhaler technique is correct.

Further guidance including videos advising patients on how to use dry powdered inhalers (Accuhaler) and metered dose inhalers (Evohaler) with spacers can be found via the Asthma UK website [here](#).

### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed fluticasone 100 microgram dry powdered inhalers (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Alium Medical
  - Smartway
  - Target Healthcare
  - UL Global
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:

- [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 (RPS)
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC)
- 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:
    - Fluticasone 100microgram dry powder inhaler (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**”.

## Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk)