

Medicines Optimisation

Prescribing Memo

Important information – morphine 10mg/1ml injection – supply problems

Date: 19.12.14

Information for prescribers:

There is currently a supply problem with morphine sulphate 10mg/1ml injection, 1ml vials which we are advised is likely to continue until early January. Some wholesalers do have stock, but others don't and whilst there is some existing stock in community pharmacies, community pharmacies may experience difficulties in obtaining new stock of this product over the Christmas period.

In order to try to avoid unacceptable delays for patients and additional calls to the out of hours services, prescribers are requested to:

- Keep the quantity prescribed to the required minimum
- Ensure the most appropriate strength is prescribed
- Liaise with local pharmacies to confirm availability of stock

Should a supply problem be experienced and it is necessary to prescribe an alternative strength, please ensure this change is communicated effectively to nursing colleagues, patients and their carers.

Local information - please find attached a copy of names of pharmacies who have been directed to hold enhanced levels of palliative care drugs (including morphine). (Please note - whilst these pharmacies are more likely to have stock available, they may also be affected by supply problems).

This information has been circulated to LPCs, district nursing and palliative care teams and out of hours services.