



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/040

Sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) CFC-free 5mg inhaler (Sanofi)

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 08/07/2020

## Summary

- Sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) CFC-free 5mg inhalers are out of stock until mid-November 2020.
- Unlicensed supplies have been sourced in sufficient quantities to cover the out of stock period.
- Nedocromil sodium 2mg inhalers (Tilade<sup>®</sup> - an alternative chromone inhaler) were discontinued in May 2019.

## Actions Required

Where the patient has **insufficient supplies** to last until the resupply date, clinicians should consider:

- reviewing patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy. [BTS guidelines](#) consider inhaled corticosteroids to be the first choice preventer drug, whilst sodium cromoglicate is an alternative but less effective preventer therapy; [GINA guidelines](#) also highlight that chromones are not recommended for routine use.
- prescribing unlicensed imports of sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) inhaler, if treatment with sodium cromoglicate is considered necessary (see supporting information).

## Supporting Information

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed sodium cromoglicate (Intal<sup>®</sup>) CFC-free 5mg inhalers with variable lead times (please note, there may be other companies that can source supplies):

- Clinigen
- Mawdsleys
- Target Healthcare

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:

- [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 (RPS)

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 by annotating the prescription with the following wording: “**special order**”.

## Enquiries

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