



UPDATE:

Update to communications issued 15 October 2020

Material updates in bold

Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/056-U

Dulcolax[®] (bisacodyl) **5mg and 10mg** suppositories

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 10/11/2020

Summary

Due to changes in the availability of bisacodyl suppositories, we have provided updated information within this communication.

Please see a supply overview for bisacodyl suppositories below:

Product	Supplier	Current Stock Position	Anticipated resupply date
Bisacodyl 5mg suppositories	Sanofi	Out of stock	w/c 23 November 2020
Bisacodyl 10mg suppositories	Sanofi	Out of stock	Early February 2021
	Martindale	Discontinued	N/A

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- review if treatment is still required, and if so, whether the rectal route of administration is still indicated;
- consider switching to alternative preparations (see supporting information below); and
- counsel patients on the different products and dosing regimens prescribed.

Supporting information

Please refer to the [BNF](#) or [BNFc](#) for selection of alternative laxative

If bisacodyl suppositories are being used for bowel clearance before surgery or radiological investigations, consult local guidelines or unit conducting the procedure for consideration of alternative agent (e.g. senna and sodium picosulfate).

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

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

Enquiries

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