

27th March 2020

Supply Disruption: Diamorphine Hydrochloride 5mg and 10mg ampoules.

Dear Colleagues,

On the 25th March 2020, the DHSC advised healthcare professionals to make the recommended actions originally communicated on 26th February 2020(SDA/2020/003) in relation to the supply disruption of Diamorphine Hydrochloride 5mg and 10mg ampoules, permanent. This recommendation is in response to firm indication from the two suppliers of diamorphine 5mg and 10mg in the UK, Wockhardt and Accord, that supply will remain unpredictable for the foreseeable future.

Permanent recommendations:

- Given the continuing unpredictability of supply of diamorphine, both primary and secondary care should now use Morphine sulfate solution for injection as first-line where clinically appropriate. Shropshire CCG recommends the use of Morphine Sulfate 15mg/ml solution for injection as an alternative to diamorphine.
<https://www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk/media/2571/just-in-case-drug-lists.pdf>
- Morphine and diamorphine are not equipotent, and great care should be taken when switching patients or amending guidelines

Please see Supply Distribution Alert Update for more details:



SDA_2020_003_U.pdf

Practices should ensure the '**Just in case morphine V2 protocol**' is used when initiating the Just in Case pack.

Should you have any queries on how to launch the protocol, please contact;

John Franey: john.franey@nhs.net and Alexander Gerald: gerald.alexander@nhs.net

Detailed information and guidance on the use of 'Just in Case packs' including lists of medicines and Pharmacies which supply 'Just in Case packs' can be accessed via <https://www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk/professional-resources/medicines-management/clinicalprescribing-guidelines-and-pathways/>

Yours Sincerely

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