



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/051

Glucagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen®)

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 18/05/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- There are two glucagon preparations available – GlucaGen® (1mg powder for injection kit) and Ogluo® (0.5mg and 1mg pre-filled auto-injector pens)
- GlucaGen® 1mg powder for injection kit will be unavailable from mid-June 2023 until to mid-July (a period of 4 weeks).
- Ogluo® 0.5mg and 1mg pre-filled auto-injector pens can be used for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes; however, is not suitable for treatment of beta blocker or other drug overdoses.
- Ogluo® is available to order from the wholesaler, Alliance.

Actions Required

In Primary Care, where patients have insufficient supplies of GlucaGen® to last until the re-supply date, healthcare professionals should;

- prescribe or administer Ogluo®(glucagon) pre-filled auto-injector pen for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes;
- counsel patients how to administer the pre-filled auto-injector pen and;
- limit prescriptions to two devices per patient until normal supply resumes.

Pharmacy staff in Secondary care should:

- centralise stocks of GlucaGen® back into pharmacy from Accident and Emergency departments and;
- order a sufficient quantity of Ogluo® stock from Alliance wholesalers to cover usage during this gap in period. This additional stock will be short dated (31st July 2023) and should only be used in hypoglycaemia. Usage of Ogluo® stock needs to be prioritised over the use of GlucaGen® i.e., moved into A&E and ward areas where glucagon is required, to conserve longer dated GlucaGen® for use after this date.

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

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

Clinicians considering the use of glucagon in secondary care settings should:

- Call the NPIS (0344 892 0111) to discuss treatment options if treating severe hypotension in a poisoned patient e.g. toxicity related to beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers or tricyclic antidepressants, please; further detail is also available on TOXBASE.
- Use Ogluo® (glucagon) pre-filled auto-injector pen to treat severe hypoglycaemic episodes when GlucaGen® is not available.

Ambulance clinicians should:

- Conserve GlucaGen® for use when IV glucose 10% has failed or there is no IV access.
- Only use a GlucaGen® kit ONCE in patients who are unconscious and unresponsive to IV glucose 10%.
- Follow the JRCALC guidelines for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Hypoglycaemia

Glucagon is indicated for treatment of severe hypoglycaemic reactions, which may occur in the management of insulin treated children and adults with diabetes mellitus. It is available in two formulations:

- GlucaGen® (powder for reconstitution) - licensed to be given subcutaneously and intramuscularly. It is also licensed to be used diagnostically for testing gastric motility.
- Ogluo® (pre-filled auto-injector pen containing solution) - only licensed to be given subcutaneously.

Beta-blocker and other Drug Overdoses

Intravenous glucagon (unlicensed) is a treatment option for severe cardiovascular instability in beta-blocker overdose, and some other drug overdoses including calcium channel blockers and tricyclic antidepressants. GlucaGen® vials are normally reconstituted and given as an initial bolus which may be followed by an IV infusion; Ogluo® is not licensed nor suitable for the management of beta-blocker or other drug overdoses. This is a pre-filled device, and the solution cannot be removed to be added to an IV infusion, the same was GlucaGen® normally is.

Whilst there are supply problems with glucagon, clinicians treating severe hypotension in a poisoned patient e.g. with toxicity related to beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers or tricyclic antidepressants, should call the NPIS (0344 892 0111) to discuss treatment options; further detail is also available on TOXBASE.

Patient Counselling

Ogluo® instruction videos for patients can be found on the manufacturer's website: [Ogluo | Tetris Pharma](#)

Please refer to the links below

- [Glucagon | Drugs | BNF](#)
- [SmPC: GlucaGen Hypokit 1 mg](#)

- [SmPC: Ogluo 1mg](#)
- [SmPC: Ogluo 0.5mg](#)
- [Poisoning, emergency treatment | Treatment summaries | BNF](#)
- [RCEM/NPIS Guideline on Antidote Availability for Emergency Departments \(December 2022\)](#)
- [Ogluo administration guide and video](#)
- [TOXBASE \(log in required\)](#)
- [Joint Royal College of Ambulance Liaison Committee JRCALC Guidelines \(restricted access\)](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source some supplies of GlucaGen®
 - Mawdsleys
 - Target Healthcare
- Other importers may also be able to source stock within Europe
- 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
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),

Enquiries

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