



# Medicine Supply Notification

## UPDATE:

Update to communications issued 15/10/2020

Material updates are shown in **bold**

MSN/2020/055-U

## DDAVP® (Desmopressin) 0.01% w/v (100 micrograms/ml) intranasal solution

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 27/05/2021

### Summary

- **DDAVP® (Desmopressin) 0.01% w/v (100 micrograms/ml) intranasal solution has now been discontinued.**
- Supplies of desmopressin 100micrograms/ml nasal spray (10 micrograms per actuation) remain available from Aspire Pharma Ltd for patients on doses  $\geq 10$  microgram.
- Desmopressin tablets and oral lyophilisates remain available.
- Unlicensed imports of desmopressin 100micrograms/ml intranasal solution can currently be sourced.

### Actions Required

All clinicians who prescribe DDAVP® intranasal solution should consider the following advice to manage patients:

- review all patients prescribed DDAVP® 100micrograms/ml intranasal solution for vasopressin-sensitive cranial diabetes insipidus and ensure that patients have an alternative management plan in place as soon as possible (see patient safety alert [here](#)).
- prescribe desmopressin nasal spray for patients on doses  $\geq 10$  microgram, ensuring they are counselled on how to use the spray and how to administer the correct dose (see supporting information below); or
- if the nasal spray is not appropriate, prescribe licensed oral products (tablets or lyophilisates) if age appropriate and this route of administration is deemed suitable (see [BNF-c](#) for oral dosing) (see supporting information below); or
- prescribe desmopressin oral solution (unlicensed special) for neonates who are on doses too small to be delivered by the nasal spray or alternative licensed oral preparations (see [BNF-c](#) for oral dosing); or
- prescribe unlicensed imports of desmopressin 100micrograms/ml intranasal solution. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

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

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

## Supporting information

**Table 1: Clinical summary of DDAVP® intranasal solution and desmopressin 100micrograms/ml nasal spray:**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Desmopressin (DDAVP®) Intranasal solution</b>	<b>Desmopressin 100micrograms/ml nasal spray</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	Glass bottle fitted with a dropper set to be used with enclosed plastic rhinyle tubes measuring volumes from 0.025 to 0.20 mL	Glass bottle fitted with a pre-compression pump spray device, to which a nasal adaptor is attached
<b>Strength</b>	100microgram/mL	100microgram/mL
<b>Dosage that can be delivered</b>	2.5microgram (0.025mL) up to 20microgram (0.20mL)	10 microgram per actuation
<b>Comment</b>	Used for administering smaller intranasal doses that cannot be provided by the nasal spray	

**Table 2: Supply overview of alternate licensed desmopressin products:**

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Stock Availability</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
Desmopressin nasal spray	10 microgram/dose	In Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspire are able to support a <u>full</u> uplift in demand.</li> <li>Desmospray® (Ferring) is out of stock until August 2023)</li> </ul>
	150 microgram/dose	Out of Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ferring (sole supplier) out of stock until August 2023</li> </ul>
Desmopressin tablets	0.1mg	In Stock	
	0.2mg	In Stock	
Desmopressin Oral lyophilisates	25micrograms	In Stock	
	50micrograms	In Stock	
	60micrograms	In Stock	
	120micrograms	In Stock	
	240micrograms	In Stock	

Clinicians are advised to take into consideration indications and age of patient when prescribing an alternative desmopressin preparation and follow the advice in the SPCs below:

- [Desmopressin \(DDAVP®\) 100micrograms/ml intranasal solution](#)
- [Desmopressin 10micrograms/dose nasal spray \(Aspire Pharma Ltd\)](#)
- [Desmopressin oral tablets](#)
- [Desmopressin oral lyophilisates](#)

### Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

- The following specialist importer has confirmed they can source unlicensed desmopressin 100micrograms/ml intranasal solution (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
  - Smartway Pharma

- 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 (RPS)
  - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC)
- When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue or discontinuation of the licensed alternative, prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required.

This can be done in one of the following two ways:

- Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
  - desmopressin 100 microgram/ml intranasal solution (imported)
- Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: **“special order”**.

## Enquiries

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