



# Medicine Supply Notification

Reference: MSN/2020/013

## Sodium Bicarbonate for Intravenous Infusion (Polyfusors)

Tier 2- medium impact\*

Date of issue: 26/03/2020

### Summary

- The following Fresenius Kabi products are due to be out of stock between early April late October 2020
  - Sodium Bicarbonate 1.26%
  - Sodium Bicarbonate 1.40%
  - Sodium Bicarbonate 2.74%
  - Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4%
- Sodium bicarbonate 4.2% Polyfusor will remain available but Fresenius Kabi cannot support an uplift in demand to compensate for products which are unavailable.
- Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% 100ml bottles (B Braun) and 10ml ampoules (Ethypharm) are available.

### Actions Required

Trust pharmacy procurement and clinicals teams should:

- review stock holding of the above affected products and reserve remaining stock for use in intensive care settings;
- continue to order products in line with forecast demand, while stock remains, over ordering will be challenged;
- plan to switch to sodium bicarbonate 8.4% 100ml bottles and 10ml ampoules once polyfusors become unavailable ;and
- ensure medicines safety teams have approved any dilution schedules used to prepare low strength sodium bicarbonate solutions, the UKMi memo below can be used to support this.

### Supporting Information

#### Supply information:

UKMi have produced the following memo to support clinical management

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-sodium-bicarbonate-polyfusors-fresenius-kabi-all-strengths/>

### 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: [A Guide to Managing Medicines Supply and Shortages.](#)