

# MEDICATION SAFETY COMMUNICATION

## Information for health professionals in NSW public health organisations

### Olmesartan (all strengths, all brands) – 27 July 2020

<b>Details of affected product(s)</b>	All strengths of all ARTG listed brands affected Combination products containing olmesartan may also be affected
<b>Reason for communication</b>	Disruption to supply due to an unexpected increase in demand
<b>Date issue made apparent</b>	14 July 2020
<b>Estimated resolution date</b>	Varies based on brand – some brands may be available in mid-August 2020 whilst others are affected until November 2020

#### Main therapeutic applications

Olmesartan is an angiotensin-receptor blocker used in the treatment of hypertension. It may also be used in patients with chronic heart failure and following myocardial infarction (if patient is unable to tolerate ACE inhibitors).

#### Alternative agents

Medsurge Healthcare and Link Medical Products P/L may be able to supply 20 mg and 40 mg olmesartan products for individual patients via the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Special Access Scheme (SAS). Please note there may be a lead time of up to 14 business days.

Alternate angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) can be used. Other ARBs available on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods are candesartan, eprosartan, irbesartan, losartan, telmisartan and valsartan. It should be noted that angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) remain the treatment of choice following myocardial infarction. For this indication, angiotensin-receptor blockers should only be used in patients intolerant to ACEIs.

#### Precautions and safety issues associated with alternative products

Choice of alternative should consider individual patient factors and availability of alternatives within your facility.

#### Impacts of this communication on clinical practice

If supply is exhausted, clinicians will need to switch patients currently treated with olmesartan to an alternate agent. Clear instructions must be provided to patients and community prescriber/s on discharge if treatment has been switched during admission.

#### Associated regulatory or policy issues

PD2013\_043 Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities

#### Key contacts

Clinical Excellence Commission (Medication Safety) – [CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au)  
HealthShare NSW (Category Manager – Strategic Procurement) – [Noman.Masood@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Noman.Masood@health.nsw.gov.au)