

Advice / Reminder to Prescribers and Pharmacy teams managing Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) - Bulletin

In response to the ongoing shortage of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) product brands such as Creon®, Nutrizym® and Pancrex®, local specialists in SYICB have provided the following pragmatic approach to supporting adults and children during this time:

- Recommendation for patients to check with multiple pharmacies, including independent and larger chains as some community pharmacies may still be able to source PERT medications from their wholesalers.
- A maximum of one month's supply of PERT should be prescribed at any given time due to the **Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP)** that has been issued for [Creon® 10000](#) and [Creon® 25000](#) capsules.
- It is recommended that usual dosages should be specified rather than “as directed” and that PERT prescriptions are separated from all other medication to allow patients to take prescriptions to a different pharmacy to those who dispense their other medicines.
- Patients should not be encouraged to stockpile PERT medicines, as doing so may worsen the shortage. Instead, patients should be advised to request their PERT medication in sufficient time and to consult their community pharmacist regarding current availability.
- Pharmacists and patients can call the Viatris customer service line to help locate community pharmacies in their locality with potential stock or for advice when stocks are due for delivery on **0800 808 6410**. Patients prescribed Creon could be signposted to this telephone number by adding it to the script notes.
- Clinicians should be mindful of not switching between PERT products as there are supply issues with Creon® 10000 and 25000 capsules and Nutrizym® 22 capsules, and while Pancrex V® capsules and powder remain available they are unable to support an increase in demand. Stocks of Creon 10,000 capsules should be preserved for those who are unable to take Creon 25,000, such as children.
- Clinicians should prioritise remaining stock of Nutrizym 22 capsules for patients unable to tolerate Creon® capsules.
- Where PERT is prescribed for indications other than cystic fibrosis, clinicians and prescribers should consider:
 - a. Prescribing a proton pump inhibitor or H2 receptor antagonist to optimise efficacy.
 - b. If a dose reduction may be suitable for patients based on severity of symptoms.
 - c. Where symptoms remain despite a dose of $\geq 10,000$ units lipase / kg / day or 100,000 units lipase with a meal, whether other causes of the symptoms should be investigated.
 - d. Prescribing medication to manage symptom control.
- Primary care clinicians should escalate to secondary care/specialist for advice in exceptional circumstances e.g. patients who are immediately running out,

- patients no longer under secondary care teams (e.g. post-surgery patients) or for advice on alternative treatments if above options are not suitable.
- Specialist advice should be sought for children with PEI
 - For Clinical Advice in adults, refer to the [Position Statement: Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy \(PERT\) shortage – advice for clinicians on the management of adults with pancreatic exocrine insufficiency](#) and for children: [NPPG-Position-Statement-PERT-V1.pdf](#)
 - **As a last resort** and if you have exhausted all options for being able to dispense a prescription for Creon® (i.e. no supplies available from the wholesaler and following communication about an alternative) you may advise patients to obtain Creon® from the Wicker Pharmacy who have been allocated a small supply sourced from STH Pharmacy.
 - Prescribe unlicensed imports of PERT only where licensed alternatives are unavailable, working with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames.

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed PERT preparations (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium (PANCREAZE® Delayed-Release Capsules)
- Durbin (Zenpep® Delayed-Release Capsules)
- Mawdsleys (Creon®)
- Smartway (Creon®)
- Target (Creon®, PANCREAZE® Delayed-Release Capsules, Zenpep® Delayed-Release Capsules)


Locally, STH pharmacy have ordered Australian Creon from Mawdsleys and have found that supplies are reliable and of a reasonable price.

Please note that patients will need to consent to unlicensed use with this being recorded in the patients notes. See advice from CPPE website:

If the unlicensed product is not listed on dm+d, a prescriber will need to issue a paper FP10 prescription written as '*Drug name (Special Order)*' to indicate that a special is required. The words '*(Special Order)*' should be included as part of the prescribed product name to ensure NHSBSA can recognise and reimburse the specials product correctly.

*Example of a **correctly** written paper FP10 prescription for an unlicensed special*

84/84	Disopyramide 100mg capsules (Special Order)
£x.xx/pack	84 capsules
Manufacturer	Three capsules daily
ABC1234	
Batch No.	
SP	



- To aid review and prioritisation of your patients, please see Clinical System Searches:

SystemOne: Sheffield Practices / Medicines Optimisation Team 2024 2025 / Supply Disruption

EMIS Web: Sheffield CCG Medicines Optimisation Team / Supply Disruption / MSN/2024/054 Creon/Nutrizym

These identify those patients who are prescribed PERT for:

- CF and those for
- non- CF indications

Useful Resources:

- NIGPS Position statement **for patients** - <https://www.psgbi.org/position-statement-pert-shortage/>
- NIGPS Position statement **for clinicians** - <https://www.psgbi.org/position-statement-pert-shortage/>
- Specialist Pharmacy Services Medicines Supply Tool - <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/shortages/shortage-of-pancreatic-enzyme-replacement-therapy-creon-nutrizym/>
- [National Patient Safety Alert \(NatPSA\)](#)
- <https://gutscharity.org.uk/2023/11/shortage-of-pancreatic-enzyme-replacement-therapy-pert/>
- [Find PERT alternatives and equivalences – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Sharron Kebell – Sharron.kebell@nhs.net
Specialised Commissioning Pharmacist
27 August 2024