



SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL (SSP)

Reference Number: SSP009

This SSP applies to the following medicine:

Name of medicine (including strength and formulation)	Fluoxetine 40mg capsules
Legal category	POM

1. Details of medication to be supplied under this SSP

Name of medicine (including formulation and strength) to be supplied	Fluoxetine 20mg capsules
Quantity of this formulation (if applicable)	Total quantity supplied under this protocol to be equivalent to the number of days supplied on original prescription. For every 40mg capsule, the following quantity must be supplied in accordance with this protocol: 2 x 20mg fluoxetine capsules
Substitution results in a change to whether the use is licenced	No

Scope for which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

The SSP applies to the following parts of the UK	England, Wales and Northern Ireland
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Clinical situation to which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

Scope of SSP	All NHS and private prescriptions.
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	This protocol does not allow for the quantity supplied to be less than the number of days prescribed on original prescription.
Criteria for inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient presents with a valid prescription (meeting the requirements of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012) for fluoxetine 40mg capsules. • The patient/carer consents to receiving the medicine supplied under this SSP. • All patients aged 18 years of age or above.
Criteria for exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient presents with a prescription for a medicine other than fluoxetine 40mg capsules. • The patient presents a prescription which is not valid. • The patient/carer does not consent to receiving the medicine(s) supplied under this SSP. • Where the pharmacist, using their professional judgement, determines that the patient is not suitable to receive alternative medicine under this SSP. • Known previous hypersensitivity or severe adverse reaction to fluoxetine capsules or their excipients. • Patients aged less than 18 years. • Adults on a fluoxetine dose > 60mg daily.
Cautions including any relevant action to be taken	Ensure that patients considered unsuitable for inclusion are promptly referred to their prescriber for further advice.
Special considerations for specific populations of patients	<p>Switching the preparation (including different manufacturer) of the drug requires caution in certain patients who are considered at risk of deterioration due to the nocebo effect whereby patients believe that the exact preparation (including different manufacturer) of the drug is critical to their response.</p> <p>Patients considered unstable or at higher risk need to be referred back to their prescriber promptly for further advice.</p>
Action to be taken if the patient is excluded	If a patient does not meet the criteria within this SSP then they should be referred back to their prescriber promptly.
Action to be taken if the patient or carer declines the supply	If a patient/carer declines to receive medicine under this SSP then they should be referred back to their prescriber promptly.

Valid from:	29 January 2021
Expiry date:	31 March 2021

Reference number:	SSP009
Version number:	1.0

Any queries regarding the content of this SSP which was issued by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, should be addressed to NHS Prescription Services.

You can get in contact by:

Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 330 1349

Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

You can also write to us at:

Newcastle	Middlebrook	Wakefield
NHS Prescription Services Bridge House 152 Pilgrim Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6SN	NHS Prescription Services Ridgway House Northgate Close Middlebrook Horwich Bolton BL6 6PQ	NHS Prescription Services 4th Floor Wakefield House Borough Road Wakefield WF1 3UB

Change history


Version number	Change details	Date

2. Conditions under which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) will operate

- The decision to supply any medicine under this protocol rests with the individual registered pharmacist who must abide by the protocol.
- Whilst pharmacy staff may support the dispensing process of the protocol, this must be carried out under the supervision of the registered pharmacist.
- Pharmacists using this SSP must ensure that it is only used within its authorised dates and within the criteria set out within the SSP. Pharmacists must check that they are using the current version of the SSP, particularly when referring to a hard copy version. Amendments may become necessary prior to the published expiry date. Current versions of SSP templates can be found at

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>.

- Users must not alter, amend or add to the content of this document; such action will invalidate the SSP.

Ministerial ratification by:			
Name	Position	Signature	Date
Lord Bethell	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State		29/01/2021

ADDENDUM

Supporting information on notifying other healthcare professionals

- Any items supplied in accordance with an SSP in response to an NHS prescription also needs to be supplied in accordance with NHS Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services Regulations.
- Those Regulations provide that where a therapeutic equivalent is supplied, a pharmacist will need to inform a patient's GP practice. This would generally be expected within the next working day, but further guidance would be given in any case where this applied.
- Where a different quantity, an alternative pharmaceutical form, an alternative strength or a generic equivalent is provided, it may not always be necessary that the patient's prescriber is informed, as the existence of the SSP may be enough for the prescriber to be aware that these changes in dispensing may take place, unless national arrangements agreed with the relevant representative bodies state otherwise. However, guidance may be issued on particular SSPs to indicate that prescribers should be informed of any patients that receive supply under it.
- In the absence of any preferred local alternate communication channels, all feedback to prescribers should be sent by NHSmail. The NHS 111 Directory of Service finder is a way for pharmacies to look up the email address of the patient's GP.