

11 March 2024

## **Medicine Supply Notification - Effervescent Tablets**

The following information is being sought in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

On 22/12/2023 the Business Services Organisation issued a Medicine Supply Notification in respect of Sando-K® (potassium chloride 600mg and potassium bicarbonate 400mg [total potassium 12mmol] effervescent tablets. The notification advised that Sando-K® effervescent tablets are in limited supply until late February 2024.

On 8 February 2024 the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust issued a Notification of Medicine Shortage and Alternatives(s) advising that Sando-K® effervescent tablets will be unavailable until early March 2024.

### **Questions:**

#### **When did the Trust first become aware of the shortage of supply of Sando-K® effervescent tablets?**

An official Medicines Supply Notification (MSN) was issued by DHSC Medicines Supply Team on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

#### **What measures have been taken by the Trust to ensure that all patients who require Sando-K® effervescent tablets have had their individual supply needs taken into account?**

As the supply shortage started to impact pharmacy supplies the Trust circulated a memo on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 explaining the issue and potential alternatives available. Prescribers assess individual patients in relation to the most appropriate supply.

#### **Has the Trust undertaken an assessment of the potential and actual impact of this medicine supply shortage?**

The Trust provided alternatives in line with the MSN to support patient care.

#### **What measures have been taken by the Trust to ensure that patients who cannot use suggested alternatives (Slow K (Potassium chloride 600mg) modified release tablets or Kay-Cee-L Syrup) have guaranteed access to**

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**sufficient supplies of Sando-K® effervescent tablets in accordance with their prescription.**

During the shortage the Trust did pursue purchase of an alternative unlicensed effervescent product, however further supplies of Sando-K became available and this action was no longer required.

**What measures are in place for the early identification of any future supply shortages of Sando-K® effervescent tablets?**

- Pharmacy procurement teams continue to closely review and monitor medicines orders and stock within BHSC
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- Pharmacy Services monitor communications from DHSC for appropriate action