



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2022/054

Hydrocortisone 2.5mg Muco-Adhesive Buccal Tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 06/06/2022

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Hydrocortisone 2.5mg muco-adhesive buccal tablets are out of stock until w/c 5th September 2022.
- Other over-the-counter preparations such as topical anaesthetics, topical analgesics/anti-inflammatory agents and topical antimicrobial agents marketed as oral gels, mouthwashes and oral sprays remain available.
- Betamethasone soluble tablets for off-label topical use in the treatment of aphthous ulcers remain available.

Actions Required

Clinicians considering treatment for patients presenting with oral ulcers should:

- assess the severity of the patient's ulcers including frequency and interference with daily activities;
- if treatment is required, establish whether over-the-counter products (purchased or prescribed) have already been tried, and whether it is appropriate to use/retry;
- if above mentioned treatments are not suitable, consider prescribing betamethasone soluble tablets for off-label topical use as a mouthwash, counselling patients on how to administer treatment, and stressing that the mouthwash must **not** be swallowed;
- if neither of the above options are appropriate, prescribers should seek specialist advice from the oral medicine clinic.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Hydrocortisone muco-adhesive buccal tablets are licensed for local use in previously diagnosed aphthous ulceration of the mouth.

Topical corticosteroids are usually considered to be first-line treatment of aphthous ulcers if simple therapies such as topical anaesthetics (e.g. lidocaine hydrochloride), topical analgesics/anti-inflammatory agents (e.g. benzydamine hydrochloride), and topical antimicrobial agents (e.g. chlorhexidine mouthwash) have not provided sufficient symptomatic relief.

Betamethasone 500 microgram soluble tablet prepared as a mouthwash is used off label to treat aphthous ulceration. The BNF recommends a dose for oral ulceration in adults and children age 12 to 17 years of 500

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

micrograms four times a day. The tablet should be dissolved in 20 mL water, rinsed around the mouth, and **not** swallowed.

Please see the following links for further information:

Links

- [SmPC hydrocortisone 2.5mg Muco Adhesive Buccal Tablets](#)
- [BNF: Treatment summary - Oral ulceration and inflammation](#)
- [NICE CKS - Scenario: Management of aphthous ulcer](#)
- [SPS: Understanding safety risks with betamethasone soluble tablets used as mouthwash](#)
- [PIL: Betamethasone 500 microgram soluble tablets used as a mouthwash](#)

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk