

31st January 2025

To: All Clinicians and Community Pharmacy

From: Medicines Optimisation Team, Frimley ICB

### **Re: Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) sourcing difficulties**

You will be aware of the difficulties in sourcing Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) as highlighted by the Medicines Supply Notification issued 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which was subsequently superseded by the [National Patient Safety Alert : Shortage of Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy \(PERT\) \(NatPSA/2024/007/DHSC\)](#) issued on 24th May 2024.

A further [National Patient Safety Alert \(NatPSA/2024/013/DHSC\)](#) was issued on 18th December 2024.

Supplies of PERT remain limited. This document summarises actions to be taken by clinicians as detailed in the NatPSAs and provides information on the local arrangement in place for community pharmacies to obtain alternative imported stock.

Clinicians and prescribers of PERT should continue to follow the actions set out within the National Patient Safety Alert ([NatPSA/2024/007/DHSC](#)) issued on 24th May 2024:

1. Clinicians should:

- a. prescribe a maximum of one month's supply of PERT for all patients at a time.
- b. prioritise available Creon 10,000 capsules for patients unable to take Creon 25,000 capsules only. <sup>Note A</sup>
- c. prioritise remaining stock of Nutrizym® 22 capsules for patients unable to tolerate Creon capsules.
- d. where PERT is prescribed for indications other than cystic fibrosis, clinicians and prescribers should consider:
  - prescribing a proton pump inhibitor or H2 receptor antagonist to optimise efficacy <sup>Note B</sup>
  - if a dose reduction may be suitable for patients based on severity of symptoms <sup>Note B</sup>
  - 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 <sup>Note B</sup>
  - prescribing medication to manage symptom control <sup>Note B</sup>
- e. 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.
- f. immediately refer patients to a specialist for advice on alternative treatments if above options are not suitable.

2. Pharmacists presented with prescriptions for PERT should only supply the equivalent to one month's supply as a maximum in accordance with [SSP60](#) and [SSP61](#)

### Clinical Information

Creon® gastro-resistant capsules and Nutrizym® 22 capsules are licensed for the treatment of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency. Each preparation contains different amounts of pancreatic enzymes. Many patients adjust their dose according to symptom management, but all patients should be counselled to re-titrate the dose if problems with digestion or weight loss occur.

Note A: Supply of Creon 10,000 capsules should be reserved for patients unable to take Creon 25,000 capsules only. Where patients are prescribed Creon 10,000 due to swallowing difficulties, consider the suitability of prescribing Creon 25,000 capsules which may be opened and mixed (without crushing) with soft acidic food (e.g., apple sauce or yoghurt). It is very important granules are not chewed or mixed with hot food. Patients should be counselled on oral care, including rinsing the mouth after eating, and ensuring dentures are cleaned regularly as granules can get stuck in the gums and under dentures and cause ulceration.

Note B: For advice on the use of reduced doses, optimisation of doses, and symptom control, please refer to the clinical advice in this [position statement](#), endorsed by a number of professional bodies. Please note that medication prescribed for symptom control will not treat malabsorption and should not be considered as alternative to PERT.

### Local supply arrangement

Due to this remaining an ongoing issue, there has been agreement with the Oxford Pharmacy Store ( [Oxford Pharmacy Store UK specialist wholesaler of pharmaceutical products. : Oxford Pharmacy Store](#) ) that they will fulfil orders from Community Pharmacies from the Frimley system for stocks of Pangrol (import). Pharmacies will need to have an account with the Oxford Pharmacy Store, those that do not have one already can set up an account via this form [Oxford Pharmacy Store Register for a New Account : Oxford Pharmacy Store](#).

For further guidance of supplying Pangrol, please refer to HIOW LPC document:).  
<https://www.cpsc.org.uk/news/latest-cpsc-news/imported-creon-alternative-pangrol>

I hope this information is useful in helping you support your patients currently prescribed PERT.

Kind Regards

Medicines Optimisation Team

Frimley ICB