



SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL (SSP) BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY

Reference Number: GSSP 003

Version Number: 1.0

This SSP applies to the following medicine Clarithromycin

Name of medicine (including strength and formulation)	Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension OR Clarithromycin 250mg tablets OR Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension OR Clarithromycin 500mg tablets
Legal category	POM

1. Details of medication to be supplied under this SSP

Name of medicine (including formulation and strength) to be supplied	Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension OR Clarithromycin 250mg tablets OR Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension OR Clarithromycin 500mg tablets
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Quantity of this formulation	Total quantity supplied in accordance with this protocol is to be equivalent to the number of days supplied on the original prescription.
Substitution results in a change to whether the use is licenced	No. However, if tablets must be manipulated in some way by patients to be ingested (e.g. crushed) then yes. Please refer to the guidance on using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children included in the addendum at the end of this form.

Scope for which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies


The SSP applies to the following parts of the Bailiwick	Bailiwick-wide
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Clinical situation to which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

Scope of SSP	<p>All prescriptions (including pharmaceutical benefits and private prescriptions).</p> <p>This protocol does not allow for the quantity supplied to be less than the number of days treatment prescribed on the original prescription, although supply might be split between more than one dispensing episode in case of owings to ensure the patient can commence treatment without delay.</p>
Criteria for inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient presents with a valid prescription (meeting the requirements of the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008) for Clarithromycin as detailed in this SSP. <p>The patient/carer consents to receiving the medicine supplied in accordance with this SSP.</p>

Criteria for exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the pharmacist, using their professional judgement, determines that the patient is not suitable to receive the alternative medicine in accordance with this SSP. • The patient presents with a prescription for a medicine other than Clarithromycin. • The patient presents a prescription which is not valid. • The patient/carer does not consent to receiving the medicine(s) supplied in accordance with this SSP. • Patients who have had a previous allergic reaction to the alternative option and its excipients. • Patients considered to be unsuitable or at higher risk need to be referred back to their prescriber promptly for further advice.
Cautions including any relevant action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If supplying the tablet form the pharmacist should be satisfied that the patient is able to accommodate the switch from liquid to tablet. Please refer to the guidance on how to give solid doses to children included in the addendum at the end of this form. Please note that use in this way may be outside the product licence and is thus "off-label". • For diabetic patients, pharmacists should supply sugar free options where possible. If this is not available, patients/carers should be informed that there is a small amount of sugar contained in the product supplied but do not withhold treatment. • Ensure that patients considered unsuitable for inclusion are promptly referred to their prescriber for further advice
Special considerations for specific populations of patients	Patients considered unstable or at higher risk need to be referred back to their prescriber promptly for further advice.
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 in accordance with this SSP, then they should be referred back to their prescriber promptly.

Valid from (Date of Issue):	22/12/2022
Expiry date:	17/01/2023
Reference number:	GSP 003
Version number:	1.0

Issued by:	The Chief Pharmacist
Signed:	

Endorsed by the Committee <i>for</i> Health & Social Care:			
Name	Position	Signature	Date

This Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) is issued under section 35A of the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008.

This SSP expires at the close of the 28th day following the date of issue unless prior to this, the Committee for Health & Social Care has endorsed it.

Any queries regarding the content of this SSP should be addressed to Prescribing and Support Unit

You can get in contact by:

Email: PSU@gov.gg

Telephone: +44 (0)1481 220000

Change history

Version number	Change details	Date

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

- The decision to supply any medicine in accordance with 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 [Medicines funded by the States of Guernsey - States of Guernsey \(gov.gg\)](#)
- Users must not alter, amend or add to the content of this document; such action will invalidate the SSP.

ADDENDUM

Supporting information on notifying other healthcare professionals

- Any items supplied in accordance with an SSP as a pharmaceutical benefit also needs to be supplied in accordance with the [Health Service \(Benefit\) \(Guernsey\) Law, 1990](#).
- Where a therapeutic equivalent is supplied, the pharmacist should inform a patient's GP practice within the next working day.
- 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. However, guidance may be issued on particular SSPs to indicate that prescribers should be informed of any patients that receive supply under it.

Switching from liquid to solid oral dosage form

- When the medicine is for a child and the pharmacist deems it appropriate to substitute to the tablet form in accordance with this SSP, patients/carers should be directed to the following guidance: [Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children - SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service](#)