

## Withdrawal of Priadel® (lithium carbonate) reversed

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To: Provider Trust Chief Pharmacists and procurement teams, CCG HoMM, Community Pharmacies and Primary care prescribers/GPs  
From: North Central London Joint Formulary Committee  
Date: 19 October 2020

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### Background

This memo is an update to the original sent on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, [a Supply Disruption Alert from the Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\)](#) confirmed that Essential Pharma has reversed their decision to discontinue Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK market whilst facilitating pricing discussions. In light of this, there is no current need to implement system-wide switching of Priadel® tablets to an alternative lithium carbonate product. Supplies of Priadel® tablets are sufficient to meet current UK demand and supply will be maintained.

Patients who require Priadel® should continue to be prescribed this product and managed in line with usual clinical practice underpinned by [NICE guidance on bipolar disorder \[CG 185\]](#). Alternative lithium carbonate formulations may still be required to be kept in stock within Provider Trusts to support those patients who may have had their treatment switched in recent months.

Should Priadel® be discontinued in the future, the manufacturer is required to provide the DHSC with a minimum of six months' notice of an intention to discontinue a product from the UK.

Ordering quotas of Priadel® tablets have been exceeded earlier than expected, therefore there are still limited supplies available in the UK. Ordering quotas will remain in place (and reset on the first of each month). Ordering information is provided below if needed.

### Guidance

#### **For Provider Trusts:**

- 1) Trusts should ensure they have access to alternative lithium carbonate preparations for new patients (Camcolit®, Liskonum® and generic lithium carbonate immediate release tablets)
- 2) Secondary care providers should order "Lithium Treatment Packs" from the Xerox online portal: <http://www.nhsforms.co.uk/>.
- 3) The manufacturer has provided reassurance that if any hospital or community pharmacy is in need of urgent stock of Priadel®, it can be obtained through their distributor Movianto (tel. 01234 248 500/ email: [Orders.UK@movianto.com](mailto:Orders.UK@movianto.com)).

**For NCL GPs:**

- 1) As previously advised, GPs can continue to prescribe Priadel® and do not need to switch patients to an alternative brand of lithium (or to refer patients to specialist services to undertake this switch).
- 2) GPs are advised to liaise with local pharmacies on Priadel stock levels if any concerns arise (manufacturer has assured that stock is available).
- 3) Primary Care practices should order “lithium treatment packs” from the Primary Care Support England portal:  
[https://secure.pcse.england.nhs.uk/forms/pcsssignin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f\\_layouts%2f15%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252F&Source=%2F](https://secure.pcse.england.nhs.uk/forms/pcsssignin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2f15%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252F&Source=%2F).

**For Community Pharmacies:**

- 1) Priadel® is currently available via wholesalers, therefore do not over-order or attempt to stockpile Priadel®.
- 2) The manufacturer has provided reassurance that if any hospital or community pharmacy is in need of urgent stock of Priadel® (or Camcolit®), they can be obtained through their distributor Movianto (tel. 01234 248 500/ email: [Orders.UK@movianto.com](mailto:Orders.UK@movianto.com)).