



21st May 2019

Re: Microgynon 30 tablets and Ovranelle tablets

Dear all,

Bayer have notified the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that due to capacity constraints at their manufacturing site in Germany, Microgynon 30 tablets will be out of stock from late May until w/c 8th July (residual stock in wholesalers may last until early June). Please see attached DHCP letter from Bayer for further details. Pfizer have also informed DHSC they will be out of stock of Ovranelle tablets from early June until August 2019 due to capacity constraints. Both Microgynon 30 and Ovranelle contain ethinylestradiol 30 microgram/levonorgestrel 150microgram.

There are several alternative suppliers of ethinylestradiol 30 microgram/levonorgestrel 150microgram tablets. DHSC has been in contact with all the alternative suppliers and can confirm that there are sufficient supplies available from certain suppliers to maintain demand throughout the duration of this supply issue. See Table 1 below for details:

Table 1:

Product	Supplier	Supply situation
Rigevidon	Consilient	Currently available and able to support increased demand – advised to consider using this product if clinically appropriate.
Levest	Morningside	Currently available and able to support increased demand – advised to consider using this product if clinically appropriate.
Elevin	Med-Rx	Currently available and able to support increased demand – advised to consider using this product if clinically appropriate
Ovranelle	Pfizer	Expected out of stock from early June – August 2019.
Microgynon 30	Bayer	Expected out of stock from late May – w/c 8th July 2019.
Microgynon 30 ED	Bayer	Currently available but supplier unable to support additional demand, advised not to switch to this product
Leandra	MedRx	Currently available but supplier unable to support additional demand, advised not to switch to this product
Maexeni	Lupin	Currently available but supplier unable to support additional demand, advised not to switch to this product

In addition to oral contraception, Microgynon 30 and Ovranelle tablets are licensed for recognised gynaecological indications. Levest, Rigevidon and Elevin are solely licensed for oral contraception, therefore use in other indications would be off-label.

Local action required:

- Prescribers and pharmacies should work together during this time to understand local availability of ethinylestradiol 30microgram/levonorgestrel 150microgram products.
- Patients who do not have sufficient supply of Microgynon 30/Ovranelle tablets to last throughout the affected period should be prescribed Rigevidon, Levest or Elevin, if clinically appropriate.
- Prescribers are advised not to switch to Microgynon 30 ED, Leandra or Maexeni during the affected period as they are unable to support any increase in demand.
- In order to minimise the disruption this may cause locally in terms of patients seeking GP appointments, GP practices may want to consider using local IT systems to identify patients who may be impacted by this shortage and to manage prescription switching to the suggested alternatives, where appropriate.

Regards,

Sarah McAleer

Principal Pharmacist, Medicine Supply team
Medicines and Pharmacy Directorate
Department of Health & Social Care