

**Email sent on behalf of Altaz Dhanani, Deputy Director of Medicines Optimisation, NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board**

Dear Practice Manager (for dissemination) and Clinical Lead,

**Re: Supply Issues with Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) including Creon® and Nutrizym® 22 Capsules**

As detailed in the DHSC / NHSE Medicine Supply Notification (MSN/2024/054) issued on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the [Specialist Pharmacy Services Medicines \(SPS\) Supply Tool](#) (registration required), the resupply date for Nutrizym 22<sup>®</sup> gastro-resistant capsules is 16th August 2024 and for Creon 25000 and 10000 capsules is January 2026. The MSN requests that only **one month's supply** is issued at a time to help stock distribution. The DHSC had also issued [Serious Shortage Protocols](#) for Creon 25000 and 10000 capsules restricting the quantity that can be provided to patients to one-month's supply.

A joint societies [Position Statement](#) includes some useful clinical advice regarding these stock shortages. Of interest within this document is the equivalence table on page 4 as patients with PEI prescribed PERT are likely to need a change in their repeat prescriptions due to the changing availability of products. Unfortunately, this may need to be altered on each prescription depending on product availability.

There is also advice on the [Community Pharmacy England website](#). This refers to the information in the MSN but helpfully **includes links** to the websites of the specialist importers that have **confirmed they can source unlicensed preparations**. For completeness, the following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed PERT preparations :

- Alium (PANCREAZE Delayed-Release Capsules)
- Durbin (Zenpep Delayed-Release Capsules)
- Mawdsleys (Creon)
- Smartway (Creon)
- Target (Creon, PANCREAZE Delayed-Release Capsules, Viokace Tablets, Zenpep Delayed-Release Capsules)

**The ICB would support practices prescribing unlicensed imports where licensed alternatives are unavailable, in line with the MSN/SPS advice.** However, they will need to **liaise with the prospective dispenser** to confirm which products they can source. Where a prescriber wishes to prescribe a specially manufactured or imported product, an FP10 paper prescription will need to be issued including the words ***"Specified imported product (Special Order)"***.

Practices are requested **not to refer** patients to secondary care to obtain supplies unless they usually obtain prescriptions from the hospital.

With kind regards

Taz

**The Primary Care Team**

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB

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