

## Position Statement for Community Pharmacy:

### January 2025 Update: Shortage of Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)

Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland ICB acknowledge the ongoing challenges related to the intermittent supply of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) (e.g., Creon®, Nutrizym® and Pancrex®) in the community and recognise the concerns and distress this may cause for patients and their families. We recognise the significant additional workload this situation places on community colleagues and appreciate their efforts in managing these challenges.


Primary Care Clinicians are advised to follow the actions outlined in the [National Patient Safety Alert issued on May 24, 2024](#), to ensure continued patient care during this period of shortages. A patient letter has been prepared, outlining all essential information and the necessary steps for managing their PERT supply. We have recommended that GP practices distribute this letter to patients to ensure they are well-informed.

#### Actions for Community Pharmacy:

- Pharmacists should assess whether they can place orders for backordered PERT supplies at wholesalers. If not, prescriptions should remain on the NHS Spine so that patients can take them to alternative pharmacies.
- When presented with a repeat prescription for PERT, pharmacists should only supply a one-month equivalent, in line with SSP060 and SSP061 guidelines.
- For further guidance on managing PERT during shortages, please refer to the "Position Statement: Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) Shortage – Advice for the Management of Adults with Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency." This document, along with practical dietary advice for patients, can be accessed at [PSGBI Position Statement](#).
- Patients should be advised to request their next prescription immediately after their previous one is dispensed, to allow time for sourcing a new supply.
- Patients should not be encouraged to contact their hospital teams, as additional stock is unlikely to be available and must be reserved for hospital patients.

#### In the Event of an Inability to Obtain Creon® or Nutrizym®:

- Continue reordering stock as supplies will arrive intermittently. If further difficulties arise, suggest that patients check with other local pharmacies for availability.
- For ongoing issues with **Creon® supply**, contact Viatris Customer Care at 01707 853 100, who can guide pharmacies to wholesalers with available stock. Creon® 10,000 should be prioritised for babies, infants, or those unable to swallow capsules or open them.
- For ongoing issues with **Nutrizym® 22® supply**, contact Zentiva Customer Care at 08448 793188. Their team can assist pharmacies in sourcing stock from wholesalers. The customer care number for patients is 08000 902408. Nutrizym® 22® should be prioritised for patients who cannot tolerate Creon®.
- Pharmacies should also consider working with iEthico (Free Medicines sourcing tool) as a potential distributor to obtain stock. Further information can be found [here](#)



In cases where an unlicensed imported product is required, please liaise with patients and prescribers accordingly. If a prescriber opts for a specially manufactured or imported product, an FP10 paper prescription should be issued as 'Specified Imported Product (Special Order)' and endorsed by the pharmacy with the following information:

- Amount dispensed over the pack size used.
- Invoice price per pack size, less any discount or rebate
- Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) license number of the supplier or importer
- Batch number of the supplied product
- 'SP' (Special Order) endorsement

Thank you for your continued commitment to patient care during this challenging time.

This information was put together in conjunction with:

**University Hospitals of Leicester**  
**The Leicester Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Team**  
**Community Pharmacy Leicestershire and Rutland.**

