



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2025/070

Clonidine (Catapres®) 100microgram tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 23/12/2025

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Clonidine (Catapres®) 100microgram tablets are out of stock until mid-February 2026.
- Clonidine 25microgram tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
- Clonidine 50micrograms/5ml and 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free remain available and can support increased demand.
- Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of clonidine 100microgram tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, prescribers should:

- consider prescribing clonidine 25microgram tablets and counsel patients on the equivalent number of tablets required (see supporting information below); or
- consider prescribing clonidine 50micrograms/5ml or 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar-free and counsel patients on the equivalent volume of liquid required (see supporting information below); or
- consider prescribing unlicensed clonidine 100microgram tablets only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Clonidine (Catapres®) 100microgram tablets and 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free are licensed for the treatment of all grades of essential and secondary hypertension. Initial treatment dose is 50 – 100 micrograms three times daily, which is increased gradually, with most patients controlled on divided daily doses of 300 – 1200 micrograms.

Clonidine 25microgram tablets and 50micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free are licensed for the prophylactic management of migraine or recurrent vascular headache and the management of vasomotor conditions commonly associated with the menopause and characterised by flushing.

Despite difference in licensed indication(s), there are no known differences in bioavailability between clonidine 25microgram tablets or clonidine 50microgram/5ml and 100microgram/5ml oral solution sugar free or Catapres® 100microgram tablets, and they can be considered interchangeable.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Clonidine is also used off-label in paediatric patients, for procedural and non-procedural sedation, dystonia and pain.

When switching patients to clonidine 25microgram tablets or clonidine 50microgram/5ml or 100microgram/5ml oral solution sugar free, clinicians should consider the quantity of tablets or volume of liquid required to deliver the equivalent dose and check patient's understanding (see Table 1).

Table 1: Clonidine 100microgram tablets equivalent conversion

Preparation	Equivalent dose to clonidine 100 microgram
Clonidine 25microgram tablets	4 tablets
Clonidine 50micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free	10ml
Clonidine 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free	5ml

Links to further information

[BNF – Clonidine](#)

[SmPC – Clonidine](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed clonidine 100microgram tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alcatia Pharma
- Clinigen
- Mawdsleys
- Target Healthcare

Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes.

Please see the links below for further information:

- [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:

Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:

- Clonidine 100microgram tablets (imported)

Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: “**special order**”.

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.