



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



## SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL (SSP)

Reference Number: SSP078

Version Number: 1.0

This SSP applies to the following medicine

Name of medicine (including strength and formulation)	Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension <b>sugar free</b>
Legal category	POM

### 1. Details of medication to be supplied under this SSP

Name of medicine (including formulation and strength) to be supplied	Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension ( <b>non sugar free</b> )
Quantity of this formulation	Total quantity supplied in accordance with this protocol is to be equivalent to the number of days supplied on original prescription.  For every 5ml of Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension <b>sugar free</b> , the following quantity must be supplied (subject to the inclusion criteria below) in accordance with this protocol:  5ml Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension ( <b>non sugar free</b> )
Substitution results in a change to whether the use is licenced	No

Scope for which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies

<b>The SSP applies to the following parts of the UK</b>	UK-wide
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**Clinical situation to which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) applies**

<b>Scope of SSP</b>	<p>All NHS and private prescriptions.</p> <p>This protocol does not allow for the quantity supplied to be less than the number of days prescribed on the original prescription.</p>
<b>Criteria for inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The patient/carer presents with a valid prescription (meeting the requirements of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012) for Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension <b>sugar free</b>.</li> <li>• The patient/carer consents to receiving the medicine supplied in accordance with this SSP.</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria for exclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where the pharmacist, using their professional judgement, determines that the patient is not suitable to receive alternative medicine in accordance with this SSP.</li> <li>• The patient/carer presents with a prescription for a medicine other than Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free.</li> <li>• The patient/carer presents a prescription which is not valid.</li> <li>• The patient/carer does not consent to receiving the medicine supplied in accordance with this SSP.</li> <li>• Patients who have had a previous allergic reaction to Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension non sugar free or its excipients.</li> </ul> <p>Patients considered to be unsuitable or at higher risk need to be referred back to their prescriber promptly.</p>
<b>Cautions including any relevant action to be taken</b>	<p>Ensure that patient/carer is aware that the preparation of Cefalexin being supplied in accordance with the SSP contains a small amount sugar.</p>
<b>Special considerations for specific populations of patients</b>	<p>For patients with diabetes, pharmacists should supply sugar free options where possible. If this is not available, patients/carers should be informed that there is a small amount of sugar contained in the product supplied, but treatment should not be withheld. Pharmacists may wish to check the SmPC for sugar content if patients are concerned.</p>
<b>Action to be taken if the patient is excluded</b>	<p>If a patient does not meet the criteria within this SSP, they should be referred back to their prescriber promptly.</p>

<b>Action to be taken if the patient or carer declines the supply</b>	If a patient/carer declines to receive medicine in accordance with this SSP, they should be referred back to the patient's prescriber promptly.
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<b>Valid from:</b>	10/12/2024
<b>Expiry date:</b>	31/1/2025
<b>Reference number:</b>	SSP078
<b>Version number:</b>	1.0

**Any queries regarding the content of this SSP which was issued by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, should be addressed to NHS Prescription Services.**

You can get in contact by:

**Email:** [nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)

**Telephone:** 0300 330 1349

**Textphone:** 18001 0300 330 1349

You can also write to us at:

<b>Newcastle</b>	<b>Middlebrook</b>	<b>Wakefield</b>
NHS Prescription Services Bridge House 152 Pilgrim Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6SN	NHS Prescription Services Ridgway House Northgate Close Middlebrook Horwich Bolton BL6 6PQ	NHS Prescription Services 4th Floor Wakefield House Borough Road Wakefield WF1 3UB

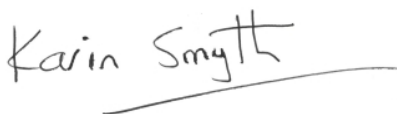
## Change history

<b>Version number</b>	<b>Change details</b>	<b>Date</b>

## 2. Conditions under which this Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) will operate

- The decision to supply any medicine in accordance with this protocol rests with the individual registered pharmacist who must abide by the protocol.
- Whilst pharmacy staff may support the dispensing process of the protocol, this must be carried out under the supervision of the registered pharmacist.

- Pharmacists using this SSP must ensure that it is only used within its authorised dates and within the criteria set out within the SSP. Pharmacists must check that they are using the current version of the SSP, particularly when referring to a hard copy version. Amendments may become necessary prior to the published expiry date. Current versions of SSP templates can be found at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>.
- Users must not alter, amend or add to the content of this document; such action will invalidate the SSP.

<b>Ministerial ratification by:</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Karin Smyth	Minister of State for Health		10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **ADDENDUM**

### **Supporting information on notifying other healthcare professionals**

- Any items supplied in accordance with an SSP in response to an NHS prescription also needs to be supplied in accordance with NHS Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services Regulations.
- Those Regulations provide that where a therapeutic equivalent is supplied, a pharmacist will need to inform a patient's GP practice. This would generally be expected within the next working day, but further guidance would be given in any case where this applied.
- Where a different quantity, an alternative pharmaceutical form, an alternative strength or a generic equivalent is provided, it may not always be necessary that the patient's prescriber is informed, as the existence of the SSP may be enough for the prescriber to be aware that these changes in dispensing may take place, unless national arrangements agreed with the relevant representative bodies state otherwise. However, guidance may be issued on particular SSPs to indicate that prescribers should be informed of any patients that receive supply under it.
- In the absence of any preferred local alternate communication channels, all feedback to prescribers should be sent by NHSmail. The NHS Service Finder is a way for pharmacies to look up the email address of the patient's GP.