

Dear members

We are writing to you about a few recent medicines shortages affecting our sector.

1. Metalyse

The shortage of tenecteplase (Metalyse) injection is predicted to extend over the next 18 months due to manufacturing capacity constraints following increases in global demand. The Therapeutic Goods Administrator (TGA) has extended the shelf-life of some batches by 12 months, noting no change to its efficacy or safety. Please check your batch numbers below. If you have a batch listed below, do NOT discard any expired stock, update labels with relevant extended expiry numbers as [below](#):

Medicine name	Batch number	Original (printed) expiry date	Extended expiry date
METALYSE tenecteplase 40mg injection (ARTG 75012)	007057	31/07/2022	31/07/2023
	101396	30/11/2022	30/11/2023
METALYSE tenecteplase 50mg injection (ARTG 75013)	006382	31/07/2022	31/07/2023
	101397	30/11/2022	30/11/2023

2. Ozempic and Trulicity

We are monitoring ongoing shortages of semaglutide (Ozempic) and dulaglutide (Trulicity) injections. Stock is expected to remain limited for the rest of the year, and should be prioritised for diabetic patients stabilised on the medication.

3. Bicillin L-A

TGA had published an anticipated shortage of Bicillin LA (benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate injection). **This has been resolved** without issue after discussions between NACCHO, the sponsor and TGA. Possible shortage was reported after potential concerns regarding labelling and amounts of an inert additive (lecithin) were assessed by the TGA as insignificant to the products' safety and effectiveness. The TGA will work with the manufacturer to meet standards for future stock batches.

Looking ahead

It is important that ACCHO and patient ordering remains consistent with previous orders, so that medicines are available for the entire sector. Please discourage stockpiling and hoarding behaviours which can prolong shortages or create inequities.

[The Medicines Supply Security Guarantee including the introduction of Minimum Stockholding Requirements](#) should help reduce the impact of global medicine shortages that interrupt supply of medicines. Manufacturers will be required to hold a minimum of either 4 or 6 months' of stock in Australia for certain PBS listed medicines.

You can search for updates on all shortages at www.tga.gov.au/hubs/medicine-shortages and [subscribe](#) to our monthly medicines newsletter for tailored advice around shortages and general medicines issues for the sector. To nominate any specific medicines that would result in serious and immediate problems for your ACCHO (for example those with no possible substitute used for life-threatening conditions), contact us at medicines@naccho.org.au.