

Discontinuation of Slo-phyllin® capsules

January 2020



Merck, the suppliers of Slo-phyllin® (theophylline), have reported that due to manufacturing issues this product will be discontinued. As a result, it is anticipated that supplies will be out of stock shortly. Following advice from our local respiratory consultants, prescribers are advised to identify and review all patients currently prescribed Slo-phyllin® to determine if theophylline is still required as it may be of minimal benefit for the patient whilst having a significant side effect profile. Patients should be informed that the theophylline has been stopped and advised to contact the practice for a respiratory review if their symptoms deteriorate.

For those patients where it is deemed appropriate for them to continue with theophylline without a break in treatment, or following deterioration in their condition once stopped, the following options are available:

- Transfer patients to the closest equivalent dose of Uniphyllin Continus® to be taken twice a day. Specialist advice should be sought for paediatric patients to determine the new dose of Theophylline if a decision has been made to continue treatment with Uniphyllin Continus®.

If the above is not an option:

- Consider switching to aminophylline tablets (Phyllocontin Continus®/Forte Continus®). Phyllocontin Continus®/Forte Continus® tablets are licensed for use in the paediatric population aged 6 years and above

When switching patients to aminophylline the dose will need to be converted from theophylline to aminophylline

Theophylline interacts with a number of medications; prescribers are reminded to take this into consideration when making adjustments to Theophylline treatment

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Prescribers are advised to identify and review all patients currently prescribed Slo-phyllin® to determine if theophylline is still required as it may be of minimal benefit

For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on
01254 282087 (BwD CCG) or 01282 644807 (EL CCG)