**Shortage of Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT)**

PERT is indicated for the treatment of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency such as in cystic fibrosis, pancreatic cancer, and pancreatitis. There is no clinical alternative to PERT. A national patient safety alert was issued in May 2024 detailing actions to be undertaken by clinicians and prescribers until the supply issues have been resolved. Details of this alert can be found on the MHRA website at [CAS-ViewAlert (mhra.gov.uk)](https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103253)

Supply issues are frequently being updated and are currently affecting a wide range of PERT. For an up-to-date overview of the supply issues please see the SPS medicines supply tool which has details of any changes to resupply dates and updates to any previous communication and can be accessed through the SPS website at [**https://www.sps.nhs.uk/**](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/)

**On 23rd August 2024 an additional medicine supply notification relating to Creon Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro resistant granules was issued. Details of this notification can be found** [**here**](https://outlook.office.com/mail/deeplink/attachment/AAMkADI2ZDVkZjM0LWVmYmUtNDg0Zi1hOTU4LWIzMmQ1MTQ4YzUyNABGAAAAAAAggnMp78VXSKt7I2mQoACYBwB1jLOV9aFwR6kchpBm%2B/0NAAIEcIJhAAAypMvwnllaSZjGUNBQGH%2BoAAOVGFupAAA%3D/AAMkADI2ZDVkZjM0LWVmYmUtNDg0Zi1hOTU4LWIzMmQ1MTQ4YzUyNABGAAAAAAAggnMp78VXSKt7I2mQoACYBwB1jLOV9aFwR6kchpBm%2B/0NAAIEcIJhAAAypMvwnllaSZjGUNBQGH%2BoAAOVGFupAAABEgAQAFQbN0BSxqxBoUwODI59Egw%3D)**.**

* Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules are in limited supply until late September 2024.
* Creon® 10,000 gastro-resistant capsules are in limited supply into primary care settings via the wholesalers. However, there is a small amount in secondary care which may be used for the patient cohort on Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules.
* Where Creon® 10,000 gastro-resistant capsules are not suitable, unlicensed supplies may be sourced, lead times vary.

**Actions to take**

* Primary care clinicians should identify patients on Creon® Micro granules and ascertain if they have sufficient stock until resupply; where they have insufficient supply patient/carers should be advised to contact their secondary care specialists for one month’s supply of Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules or for doses of 10000 units or more.
* Consider prescribing Creon 10,000 gastro-resistant capsules. They can be swallowed whole, or for ease of administration they may be opened, and the granules taken with acidic fluid or soft food, but without chewing. This could be apple sauce or yoghurt or any fruit juice with a pH less than 5.5, e.g. apple, orange or pineapple juice.
* Prescribe unlicensed imports of PERT only where licensed alternatives are unavailable, working with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames.
* Immediately refer patients to a specialist for advice on alternative treatments if above options are not suitable.

**Guidance for prescribing Imported Creon**

With regards to the shortage of pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy such as Creon and the availability of unlicensed imported stock that pharmacies can order, please be aware that:

* there is currently no listing on EMIS for the imported product for prescribers to select so an EPS prescription for the unlicensed product cannot be issued.
* an FP10 paper prescription should be issued including the text ‘Specified imported product (Special Order)’
* if the pharmacy already has an existing prescription and needs to order an unlicensed special, they will need to request a replacement prescription containing the above information to enable them to supply the unlicensed imported stock.

In the event of any queries from pharmacies regarding payment, they will have their costs covered if the prescription is endorsed by the pharmacy as a non-Part VIIIB special with the following information:

* Amount dispensed over pack size used;
* Invoice price per pack size from which the order was supplied less any discount or rebate;
* Manufacturers’/importers’ MHRA licence number;
* Batch number of the product supplied;
* SP

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed PERT preparations (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

* [**Alium**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aliummedical.com%2Funlicensedmedicines&data=05%7C02%7Cjulie.lawson5%40nhs.net%7C90c874fae8b44bdc9d7208dcc28fcd7c%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638599170086854797%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Ff1GgM%2BMD6LOpdpXNvTL0PzSV4gDQbPS5SF1oInErzA%3D&reserved=0) (PANCREAZE® Delayed-Release Capsules)
* [**https://www.clinigengroup.com/**](https://www.clinigengroup.com/)
* [**Durbin**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdurbinglobal.com%2Funlicensed-medicines%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cjulie.lawson5%40nhs.net%7C90c874fae8b44bdc9d7208dcc28fcd7c%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638599170086863628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=g3xhx9qgg%2FDPXq9DWbDUkEFW4G8MgBL5rz1jWiz6cVk%3D&reserved=0) (Zenpep® Delayed-Release Capsules)
* [**Mawdsleys**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mawdsleys.co.uk%2Fpharma-services%2Fhealthcare-professional%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cjulie.lawson5%40nhs.net%7C90c874fae8b44bdc9d7208dcc28fcd7c%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638599170086871048%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tusStdehNHhkjFHB%2BtXeaSHPrUF84qahE8BcYLCRi1Y%3D&reserved=0)  (Creon®)
* [**Smartway**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.smartwaypharma.co.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cjulie.lawson5%40nhs.net%7C90c874fae8b44bdc9d7208dcc28fcd7c%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638599170086878467%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=I6jLO3tn08exCUwIv%2FPUdo%2FJgpZmoZfNgPpr%2FeodIpo%3D&reserved=0) (Creon®)
* [**Target Healthcare**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftarget-healthcare.co.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cjulie.lawson5%40nhs.net%7C90c874fae8b44bdc9d7208dcc28fcd7c%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638599170086885330%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x8GLiPNFJFDArpbHNqi1SO5FSGpg7XFIu7fB8jpEE8w%3D&reserved=0) (Creon®, PANCREAZE® Delayed-Release Capsules, Viokace® Tablets, Zenpep® Delayed-Release Capsules)
* [**https://www.chemys.co.uk/**](https://www.chemys.co.uk/)(Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules)

**The following tool provides options for PERTs by matching a patient’s current therapy against equivalent UK licensed products. It also states the enzymatic constituents by product and individual dose.** [**Find PERT alternatives and equivalences – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice**](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/find-pert-alternatives-and-equivalences/)