



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2026/018

Gastrografin® (meglumine amidotrizoate 3.3g/5ml / sodium amidotrizoate 500mg/5ml) oral solution

Urografin® 150 (meglumine amidotrizoate 260mg/ml / sodium amidotrizoate 40mg/ml (Iodine 150mg/ml) solution for injection/infusion ampoules and bottles

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 16/03/2026

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Gastrografin® oral solution and Urografin® 150 solution for injection/infusion ampoules and bottles are out of stock until June 2027.
- Bayer Plc has [recalled](#) all stock of Gastrografin® and Urografin® 150 as a precautionary measure due to the identification of an impurity above the acceptable limit (see Supporting Information).
- Omnipaque® and Visipaque® remain available and can support partial increased demand across their portfolio.
- Unlicensed supplies of Gastrografin® and diatrizoate meglumine/diatrizoate sodium solution may be sourced, lead times vary.

Actions Required

NHS provider Trust pharmacy procurement teams working with appropriate clinical leads and their local Medication Safety Officer (MSO) should take immediate action, in consultation with radiology leads, to review licensed and off-label uses and consider:

- switching to alternative products, (see Supporting Information) ensuring:
 - clinical areas using Gastrografin® or Urografin®, including for small bowel obstruction are made aware of this shortage and the local mitigations;
 - contact is made with their regional GE Healthcare account manager to discuss monthly requirements of Omnipaque® and/or Visipaque®. Orders must be placed conservatively and in accordance with current requirements; and
 - prescribing systems and local guidance are reviewed and updated as required.
- using unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate (e.g. for small bowel obstruction), ensuring orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see supporting information below).

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

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

Supporting information

Gastrografin® is a water-soluble iodinated high osmolar X-ray contrast media, licensed for diagnostic use by oral or rectal administration, for the radiological examination of the gastrointestinal tract. It is used off-label in the management of adhesional small bowel obstruction for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Its osmotic properties result in fluid being drawn into the intestinal lumen, thereby stimulating motility and reducing oedema. It has also been used off-label to treat constipation and distal intestinal obstruction syndrome (DIOS) in patients with cystic fibrosis; other management options include the off-label use of laxatives (e.g. Moviprep®, Plenvu® or Picolax®) or acetylcysteine (orally).

Urografin® is a water-soluble iodinated X-ray contrast media licensed for the delineation of the vascular and renal systems.

Omnipaque® (iohexol) and **Visipaque® (iodixanol)** are water-soluble iodinated low osmolar contrast media licensed for use in body cavities, including the gastrointestinal tract, as well as for intravenous, intra-arterial and intrathecal use.

Bayer Plc has issued a [class 3 recall](#) for all stock of Gastrografin® and Urografin® 150 as a precautionary measure due to the identification of N-Nitroso-Meglumine above the acceptable limit. Trusts wishing to undertake a local risk assessment to decide whether to use the impacted stock in emergency cases, can contact the Defective Medicines Report Centre within the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency via DMRC@mhra.gov.uk for further information.

Links to further information

[SmPC Gastrografin®](#)

[SmPC Urografin®](#)

[SmPC Omnipaque®](#)

[SmPC Visipaque®](#)

[Report of the National Audit of Small bowel Obstruction](#)

[Class 3 Medicines Recall: Bayer Plc, Various Products, EL\(26\)A/12](#)

Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports

The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed Gastrografin® and/or diatrizoate meglumine/diatrizoate sodium solution (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):

- Alium Medical
- Alcatia Pharma
- Chemys Ltd
- Clinigen
- Genetech Pharmaceuticals
- Tanner Pharma
- 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),

Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Specialist Pharmacy Service Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist (SPS RPPS), who will escalate to national teams if required:

Region	Lead SPS RPPS Name and Email	Associate SPS RPPS Name and Email
Midlands	Andi Swain andi.swain@nhs.net	Dav Manku Dav.Manku@uhb.nhs.uk
East of England	James Kent james.kent@nhs.net	Tracy McMillan tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net
London	Jackie Eastwood j.eastwood@nhs.net	Daniel Johnson Daniel.Johnson@nhs.net
North East and Yorkshire	David Allwood davidallwood@nhs.net	Penny Daynes penny.daynes@nhs.net
North West	Andrew Stewart Andrew.stewart@liverpoolft.nhs.uk	Vacant
South East	Alison Ashman Alison.Ashman@berkshire.nhs.uk	Melanie Renney melanie.renney@berkshire.nhs.uk
South West	Danny Palmer danny.palmer@uhbw.nhs.uk	Natalie Bryson Natalie.Bryson@uhbw.nhs.uk

Scotland

nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot

Wales

MedicinesShortages@gov.wales

Northern Ireland

RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net

All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2026/018.

Email: DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.