



/ Medication Shortage and Adverse Event information

/ What to do if your medication is unavailable when you need to fill a script or have an adverse event to a medication!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions over the past year and at other times, medications can either be in short supply or unavailable when you need to fill your prescription.

The ATF have been aware that Neo-Mercazole and Carbimazole have recently been unavailable which has been very unfortunate for patients who are diagnosed with Graves' Disease or hyperthyroidism.

The ATF has been in constant contact with Advanz Pharma who are the Australian sponsors of the medications. The ATF has been advocating on patient's behalf and guiding patients with advice and information.

Pharmacists are not always aware of the reasons why medications are unavailable or how to access emergency supplies. Therefore, below is some advice for you to know in times of need. This information can apply to all medications and it is a good idea to keep and have available if your medication is unavailable.

Please also let the ATF know if you have any thyroid medication issues, so we can advocate on your behalf.

Give the medication sponsor (pharmaceutical company that imports the medication) a call to find out why the medication is unavailable. Ask for information about alternative products/sources from other countries:

- Aspen Pharmaceuticals - Levothyroxine Brands - Oroxine, Eutroxig & Eltroxin - 1300 659 646
- Advanz Pharma - Anti thyroid medication - Carbimazole (Neo-mercazole) - (02) 9431 6333
- Phebra – Anti thyroid medication - PTU (Propylthiouracil) - 1800 720 020
Email: medical@phebra.com

Speak to your GP or Endocrinologist and ask for assistance in applying to the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) Special Access Scheme for approval to import a specific/alternative medication from another supplier/country www.tga.gov.au/form/special-access-scheme

Contact the NPS Medicines Line for assistance regarding your medication <https://www.nps.org.au/medicines-line>

/ Adverse Events (Side Effects) Reporting Scheme

If you have side-effects or feel unwell when you are taking a particular medication, please contact the Adverse Events (Side Effects) Reporting Scheme <https://www.tga.gov.au/adverse-events-side-effects-reporting-survey>.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the ATF
Email: info@thyroidfoundation.org.au