

Bile Acid Sequestrants for the Treatment of Bile Acid Malabsorption
*colestyramine powder for oral suspension 4g (Questran and Questran Light), colesevelam
(Cholestigel) and colestipol (Colestid)*

Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) are currently the only supplier of colestyramine and they are facing manufacturing difficulties. Questran is now out of stock and no further supplies are expected before BMS transfer the product to Cheplapharm at the end of July 2019. It is not yet confirmed when the new manufacturer will be in a position to make supplies available. Supplies of Questran Light are currently available and able to support demand for patients who take Questran or Questran Light sachets. The supply situation for the alternative bile acid sequestrants is outlined below:

- Cholestigel (colesevelam): currently limited stock in pharmacies due to delivery issues, full stock expected from 3rd August 2019.
- Colestid Orange (colestipol) 5g granules: currently in stock but will be out of stock from mid-July and not expected back until October 2019.
- Colestid (colestipol) granules 5g (plain): currently in stock but only sufficient to support the patients currently taking the colestipol either as plain granules or as Colestid Orange.

Given the current issues with all of these agents it would seem prudent to keep patients on their existing treatment for as long as supplies remain available provided they are benefitting from treatment. If there is a need to switch patients between treatments specialist advice may be required. Advice on management options from the Specialist Pharmacy Service can be found in their [Memo](#).

For up to date drug shortages information please check the MIMS on-line [drug shortages tracker](#). The tracker also suggests possible alternatives where appropriate, and a second tracker is available that lists supply issues reported to have been resolved. Users will need to register and log in to view. Registration is free for GPs and nurses. Pharmacists based in GP practices can also register for free by emailing gponline.support@haymarket.com.