

## Recent Drug Shortages

Drug shortages can occur for many reasons including manufacturing and quality problems, delays and discontinuations. Manufacturers work with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent or reduce the impact of drug shortages. An update on recent ongoing shortages is provided below.

### Ongoing Shortage of New Shingles Vaccine: Shingrix®

In October 2017, the FDA approved a new vaccine for the prevention of shingles in adults aged 50 years and older: Shingrix® (zoster vaccine recombinant, adjuvanted). The vaccination series requires two intramuscular doses administered 2 to 6 months apart. Due to high demand for Shingrix, it has been on shortage since May 2018.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends Shingrix vaccination for healthy adults 50 years and older to provide protection against shingles and the subsequent nerve pain following the infection. A full vaccination course requires two doses separated by 2 to 6 months. This new inactive vaccine is preferred over the previous shingles vaccination, Zostavax® (zoster vaccine live).

As of January 2019, the U.S. FDA continues to report the shortage of the Shingrix vaccine as ongoing. The manufacturer of the vaccine, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), has stated maintaining adequate vaccine supplies to the US market is their highest priority. Beginning in December 2018, GSK committed to releasing large shipments twice a month. Nonetheless, due to high vaccination rates, supply will continue to be allocated and the potential exists for delays in resupply. GSK has stated patients should be able to receive the 2-dose series within the recommended 2 to 6 month time frame.

For additional details regarding CDC recommendations for the second Shingrix dose, if more than 6 months have passed following the first dose, please visit GSK's [website](#). A vaccine locator search tool is also available on the GSK website: [Vaccine Locator](#).

### Shortage of Generic Anti-anxiety Drug: Buspirone Tablets

A number of manufacturers are experiencing shortages of the generic anti-anxiety drug buspirone. The shortage has been ongoing since fall 2018. As of February 15, 2019, the generic manufacturer, Par Pharmaceuticals, has 7.5 mg tablet strengths available. However, potential resupply dates for other manufacturers vary and range from late February 2019 to April 2019. The primary reason stated for the shortage is increased demand, which may be related to Impax Laboratories discontinuation of manufacturing buspirone.

For additional details regarding the supply of specific manufacturer's product, visit the ASHP drug shortage [website](#) or the FDA drug shortage [website](#). For the most up-to-date information on drug shortages and product discontinuations, visit the [ASHP Current Shortages Database](#) or the [FDA Drug Shortages Database](#).

#### References:

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