



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/088

Norethisterone (Noriday<sup>®</sup>) 350microgram tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 22/08/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- Norethisterone (Noriday<sup>®</sup>) 350microgram tablets will be out of stock from late August 2024 until early December 2024.
- Desogestrel 75microgram tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
- Levonorgestrel (Norgeston<sup>®</sup>) 30microgram tablets remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.

## Actions Required

Prescribers should :

- identify patients who have insufficient supplies of norethisterone (Noriday<sup>®</sup>) 350microgram tablets to last until the re-supply date;
- consider prescribing desogestrel 75microgram tablets, if appropriate, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to the drug and any of the excipients and is counselled on the dosing regimen and management of missed doses (see supporting information); and
- if desogestrel is not suitable, discuss other contraceptive options with patient.

## Supporting information

### Clinical Information

Noriday<sup>®</sup> is an older generation progestogen-only pill (POP) and the only one containing norethisterone. It has a three-hour missed dose window. Another older generation POP is Norgeston<sup>®</sup> (levonorgestrel 30microgram), which also has the same missed dose time window. The newer generation POPs contain desogestrel 75microgram (branded generic formulations available) which have a longer time window for missed doses. Switches between POPs can be made at any time in the cycle.

The off-label use of 3 tablets of Noriday<sup>®</sup> tablets daily to provide 1.05mg of norethisterone is part of a continuous combined HRT regimen for endometrial protection in non-hysterectomised women recommended by the British Menopause Society. Another norethisterone based-regimen that is recommended is use of 5mg tablets for 12 days a month (cyclical).

Links to further information

[FSRH Clinical Guideline: Progestogen-only pills](#)  
[Oral progestogen-only contraceptives - BNF](#)  
[Progestogen-only pill | CKS | NICE](#)  
[SmPC – Desogestrel 75microgram tablets](#)

[SmPC – Norgeston<sup>®</sup> 30microgram tablets](#)  
[SmPC – Noriday<sup>®</sup> 350microgram tablets](#)  
[British Menopause Society. Progestogens and endometrial protection](#)

## Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk)

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

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