

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) local shortage guidance

Pathway for patients who cannot obtain PERT supplies using their usual nominated pharmacy

There are limited supplies of pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies (PERT).

- Creon® 10,000 and 25,000 capsules remain in limited supply until 2026.
- Nutrizym® 22 capsules and Pancrex V® capsules and powder are intermittently available but are unable to fully cover the gap in supply.

On 18th December 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care issued additional actions regarding the PERT shortage [National Patient Safety Alert](#)

1. Clinicians should continue to follow the actions set out in the National Patient Safety Alert ([NatPSA/2024/007/DHSC](#)) issued on 24th May 2024.
2. NHS provider trust pharmacy procurement teams should ensure that where quantities greater than current demand are required, unlicensed imports should be considered.
3. To ensure that patients are not left without PERT, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) should: a. put in place a local mitigation plan for instances when patients are unable to obtain stock from their community pharmacy or dispensing GP. b. cascade any local management plan to all community pharmacies and GP practices within the region, as well as local trust pharmacy teams.

Ongoing updates on supply are available using [Specialist Pharmacy Services Medicines Supply Tool](#).

The two main suppliers of PERT in the UK have set up customer support lines to help identify areas with recent deliveries. However, it is possible these deliveries may have already been allocated to specific patients.

- **Viatrix (Creon®) 0800 8086410 (for patients and pharmacists)**
- **Zentiva (Nutrizym®): 08448 793188 (for pharmacists) and 08000 902408 (for patients)**

A full and detailed national position statement in response to the PERT shortage can be found here: [Position Statement: Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy \(PERT\) shortage – advice for clinicians on the management of adults with pancreatic exocrine insufficiency](#)

[Serious shortage protocols](#) are in place for community pharmacies to limit supply to one month until May 2025.

Pathway for patients who cannot obtain PERT supplies using their usual nominated pharmacy

A service has been established within BNSSG Integrated Care System (ICS) for patients who are unable to obtain their supply of PERT. Patients in **exceptional circumstances** can be referred to University Hospital Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) inpatient pharmacy to dispense against a printed FP10 prescription issued from BNSSG GP Practices for BNSSG patients.

UHBW address

Inpatient Pharmacy
Level 3
Bristol Royal Infirmary
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS2 8HW

This pathway should only be followed when a patient has tried their usual Community Pharmacy, plus one other after seeking advice from customer support lines (as above in page 1). Current stock available via this route is Creon 10,000 capsules and Creon 25,000 capsules. PERT medication should be put on a separate FP10 prescription and printed.

Please could clinicians advise the patient that this is an inpatient pharmacy supporting the wards and theatres, and that it could take up to 1 to 2 hours for the prescription to be dispensed, or longer if this falls over the lunch hour.

Pathway Flow Diagram

