



BSGAR guidance on withdrawal of Barium sulfate 100% w/v oral suspension (Baritop® 100) and Barium sulfate 94.6% w/w granules for suspension (Baritop® Plus) by Sanochemia Diagnostics UK Ltd .

10th November 2021

Baritop® 100 and Baritop® Plus have been discontinued with remaining stock expected to be exhausted by late March 2022. This currently leaves only one UK supplier of barium products, which is Bracco UK limited.

Barium examinations of the upper GI tract remain an important aspect of service delivery across the NHS in selected patients. The current alternative barium formulations E-Z-Paque 96 % w/w powder for oral suspension and E-Z-HD 98 % w/w powder for oral suspension allow continuity of services.

Rectal barium sulfate is now only used for very limited indications in adults, since replacement of the barium enema by CT colonography. However, it remains indicated specifically for defecating proctography to evaluate pelvic floor disorders. While Baritop is licensed for rectal administration, E-Z-paque 96%w/w is not. It is used currently as an off license indication in a number of NHS Trusts for this purpose and mixed with milled oats, or similar bulking agent which are then administered rectally in the form of a paste. As this remains an important diagnostic test for the management of pelvic floor disorders, we advise that services consider adopting E-Z-paque 96%w/w barium for rectal administration as an off-label use to allow continuation of services.

We recommend that all GI Radiology services ensure that they have adequate supplies of Barium Sulfate products in line with their usage.

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Circulation to all BSGAR members, RCR Clinical Directors forum, British Society of Paediatric Radiologists.