



Important information about your TB treatment

There is a national shortage of several antibiotic medicines used to treat tuberculosis (TB), which is expected to last until at least the end of 2025.

The NHS is leading a national response, alongside the Department of Health and Social Care and other key stakeholders, to source additional supplies and help ensure the continuity of treatment.

Affected medicines include:

- Rifampicin 150mg capsules
- Rifampicin 600mg IV solution for infusion
- Rifinah 300/150mg tablets (rifampicin 300mg / isoniazid 150mg)
- Rifater tablets (rifampicin 120mg / isoniazid 50mg / pyrazinamide 300mg)
- Voractiv tablets (rifampicin 150mg / isoniazid 75mg / pyrazinamide 400mg / ethambutol 275mg)
- Rifabutin 150mg capsules

Other medicines used to treat TB, such as Ethambutol, Isoniazid, Rifinah 150/100mg, Rifampicin 300mg capsules and oral solution are still available. However, if many more people need them, shortages of these could also occur.



What this means for you

Continue your current treatment: If you are already on treatment for TB disease (active TB) or TB infection (latent TB), you must continue taking your medication without stopping.

Possible changes to your prescription: To help ensure you continue to get your medication, especially when supplies are limited, your doctor or pharmacist might need to give you a different form of your usual medicine or switch you to a different drug. This could mean your medication might look a little different, and the number of tablets you take could also change. Your healthcare provider will talk to you about any changes to your medicines. Prescriptions for these medicines might be limited to a one-month supply to ensure there's enough for everyone.

Contact your healthcare provider: If you have any questions or concerns about your medication, please speak with your healthcare provider.

You can also contact TB Alert for independent information and support: email contact@tbalert.org or call **0330 102 2403**

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the current issue with TB medication?

There is a shortage of several key antibiotics used to treat tuberculosis (TB). Supplies of these medications may be interrupted until at least the end of 2025.

2. Which specific medicines are affected?

The affected medicines include rifampicin (150mg capsules and IV) and combination products such as Rifinah 300/150mg, Rifater, and Voractiv. Other medications such as ethambutol, isoniazid, Rifinah 150/100mg, pyrazinamide 500mg capsules, and rifampicin 300mg capsules and oral solution are available, but they might not be enough to meet all treatment needs.

3. Why is there a shortage?

The supply disruption is caused by a combination of factors including increased demand and complexities within manufacturing supply chains.

4. What should I do if I am currently taking one of these medications?

If you are already being treated for TB disease (active TB) or TB infection (latent TB), you should continue your treatment and not stop taking your medication. Your healthcare professional may need to amend your prescription to an alternative product to prevent delays in your treatment.

5. Will my treatment change?

Your prescriber might need to change your medication or limit your prescription to a maximum of one month's supply to help conserve the stock. Your healthcare team will inform you about any changes to your usual medication.

6. Are there any alternative medicines available?

TB antibiotics may be imported. These are not normally approved for use in the UK but have been assessed as suitable to be used where approved medications are unavailable. Medications containing individual drugs - like rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol - may also be used where combined-drug alternatives are not available.

7. Who should be prioritised for the remaining supplies?

Patients already receiving treatment for TB disease will be given priority, in line with clinical guidance. If you are newly diagnosed with TB, your healthcare professional will discuss your treatment start date with you, according to local supply and your specific needs.

This leaflet was published in October 2025.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your TB Team. You can also contact TB Alert for independent information and support:

- contact@tbalert.org
- 0330 102 2403
- <https://healthunlocked.com/tb-alert>

