

To Directors Anaesthetic/ICU Departments
Hospital Pharmacists

11 January 2012

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Re: Interruption to Supply of Thiopental Sodium

As the Marketing Authorisation Holder in the UK we write to advise that due to circumstances beyond our control involving the manufacture of Thiopental Sodium, there will be significant disruption to the existing supply.

We anticipate that current stock may be exhausted by the 2nd half of January 2012.

The licence for Thiopental sodium in the UK has 3 indications;

1. Induction of general anaesthesia and as an adjunct to provide hypnosis during balanced anaesthesia
2. Adjunct for the control of convulsive disorders of various aetiology
3. Reduction of raised intracranial pressure if controlled ventilation is provided

Given our current very limited ability to resupply we would strongly recommend that use of existing hospital stock is prioritised to patients with greatest need and that consideration be given to the use of alternative medicines where this is possible.

We are currently exploring all avenues to secure a continued supply of thiopental sodium. In the interim please continue to place orders with Unidrug Distribution Group (UGD) and AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd as usual and we will endeavour to fulfil the orders. We will also advise you when the stock situation has improved. The Department of Health is aware of this issue.

Should you have any queries in relation please contact our Medical Information Department on 0118 931 5094.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Donovan'.

**Dr A Donovan
Interim Medical Director
Archimedes Pharma UK**