

SA Palliative Care Community Pharmacy Update

A joint initiative of South Australian Palliative Care Services

Morphine syrup (Ordine®) is commonly used to treat pain in palliative care and breathlessness in a range of advanced respiratory diseases.

Background

A planned discontinuation of Morphine syrup by the Australian supplier Mundipharma was announced in 2023 ([TGA announcement](#)). Mundipharma has provided the following:

Product	Estimated cessation from market
Ordine® 1mg/ml	Dec 2023
Ordine® 2mg/ml	Feb 2024
Ordine® 5mg/ml	March 2024
Ordine® 10mg/ml	March 2024

Is there an alternative morphine syrup product available?

Currently there are no other available brands of morphine syrup fully registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) (Apotex may step in to provide future Ordine® however delays in supply can be expected).

- > Link Medical Products supply approved:
 - **Martindale®** morphine 10mg/5ml available in 100ml & 300ml
- > Medsurge supply approved:
 - **Hikma®** morphine 2mg/ml in 100ml & 500ml
 - **Streuli®** morphine 10mg/ml drops 20ml

PBS listings

Section 19A approval have been provided for Hikma® and Martindale® formulations. The listed volumes require consideration in terms of;

- > Safety: Significant volumes have been made available on the PBS for palliative patients, though it is prudent to balance the clinical need for such large volumes (e.g. may be appropriate in rural patients) against the safety risk (e.g. storage facilities or vulnerable people in the home).
- > Storage: Large bottles also pose a storage problem in often limited pharmacy DDA safe capacity. Communication with your local prescribers may address patient/ prescriber expectations of stock on hand and required ordering arrangements.

- > Split bottles: Non-palliative prescribing on PBS allows reduced volumes. Shorter expiries apply (e.g. 90day expiry on Martindale® and Hikma® once opened).

What does this mean for my patient?

- > Your patient may need to switch to a different concentration, education needed. Assure patients that there is no difference in efficacy compared to Ordine®. Excipients do differ however.
- > Discuss with your patients the need to be reviewed by their health care team.
- > Alternative immediate release opioids;
 - Morphine immediate release tab, Sevredol®, though expected discontinuation of 20mg tablet in April '24 & 10mg tablet in July '24
 - Rhodes® hydromorphone 1mg/ml continues through Section 19A via Medsurge.
 - Rotation to an alternative immediate release opioid (e.g. oxycodone syrup, tablet or capsule) would require [calculating a new opioid dose](#).
- > Consumer Medicine Information may be difficult to access. Generic info available on the [Palliative Care Australia website](#).
 - Martindale PIL (the UK equivalent of CMI [here.](#))

Useful resources

- > [NSW Health Safety Notice](#)

For more information

Contact the Advanced Practice Pharmacists:

- > **Michaela del Campo, Central**
Michaela.delcampo@sa.gov.au / 8222 6825
- > **Brianna Kinnear, Southern**
Brianna.kinnear@sa.gov.au / 8275 1732
- > **Safwat Gergis, Northern**
safwat.gergis@sa.gov.au / 8161 2499

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