

# Product Shortage Notification – Paracetamol Tablets in Blisters



29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## Pharmacare Paracetamol Tablets 500mg

Medsafe File Ref: TT50-7564 & TT50-7564

Dear Wholesalers and Healthcare Professionals,

PSM Healthcare trading as API Consumer Brands currently supply two packaging formats of Paracetamol 500mg tablets to the market – both of which are fully subsidised by PHARMAC:

- Pharmacare Paracetamol 500mg x 1000 tablets in plastic bottles    Pharmacode 2524147
- Pharmacare Paracetamol 500mg x 1000 tablets in blisters packs    Pharmacode 2296985

As per the recent communication from PHARMAC, we are currently experiencing a shortage of Paracetamol in blister packs (Pharmacode 2296985).

We do however have sufficient quantity of Paracetamol in bottles (Pharmacode 2524147) which are suitable for unit dose dispensing. To ensure continued supply of Paracetamol to your customers, we are recommending the use of the bottled product over this period for use in compliance packaging.

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## Product Information – Paracetamol Tablets



Pharmacode 2524147:  
1000 x 500mg Paracetamol tablets  
in bottles

Suitable for use in compliance  
packaging.

We are encouraging all  
pharmacies managing  
compliance packaging – whether  
automated or manual – to use the  
loose bottle stock for this purpose.

# Product Information – Paracetamol Tablets



Historically there were some quality issue with the bottled tablets, however following a rigorous review of the manufacturing and packing procedures, and changes to the product packaging in late 2017, these quality issues have largely been overcome.

Recent trials in robotic dispensing machines showed excellent results with only a small amount of residue - consistent with non-coated tablets - and no tablet breakage.



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## Benefits of dispensing Paracetamol tablets from bottles rather than blisters in Pharmacy:

- ✓ No need to pop tablets from blisters
- ✓ Less packaging wastage
- ✓ Cheaper purchase price

Pharmacode 2524147: 1000 x 500mg tablets in bottles: \$6.32

Pharmacode 2296985: 1000 x 500mg tablets in blisters: \$7.12

**To ensure continued supply of Paracetamol for your customers, please consider the use of Paracetamol in bottles rather than blisters wherever possible.**

Please contact Noeline Jonkers on [Noeline.jonkers@api.net.nz](mailto:Noeline.jonkers@api.net.nz) if you require further information.