



**Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Seirbhís Aisíocha Príomhchúraim**

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15th January 2026

Circular 004/26

RE: Metronidazole Tablets

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a memo from HSE Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control (AMRIC) in relation to the current shortage of metronidazole tablets.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Assistant National Director
Primary Care Reimbursement Service



Memo

To: Regional Executive Officers, Regional Clinical Directors.

From: Dr. Eimear Brannigan, AMRIC Clinical Lead
Marie Philbin, AMRIC Chief Pharmacist

Date: 14th January 2026

Subject: **Shortage of metronidazole tablets**

Dear colleagues,

We have been informed by the HPRA there is a shortage of metronidazole tablets, with an expected return date of 31.01.26. There is limited availability of metronidazole oral suspension.

To preserve the use of metronidazole oral suspension for infections where there are no clear alternatives the following is recommended:

- If you are considering prescribing oral metronidazole please consult national or local antimicrobial prescribing guidelines. If there are recommended alternatives to oral metronidazole for the particular infection, acknowledging patient specific factors such as allergy, consider prescribing those in preference to metronidazole.
- Note for individual hospital sites: assess available stock and action accordingly.

National antimicrobial prescribing guidelines are available on www.antibioticprescribing.ie

For updates on metronidazole supply refer to the Medicine Shortages section on www.hpra.ie

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Eimear Brannigan

Marie Philbin

cc GPs
Dentists
Community Pharmacists
Infectious Diseases Physicians
Consultant Microbiologists
Antimicrobial Pharmacists