

MEMORANDUM

To: All Medical and Nursing Caregivers

From: Anne-Marie Sweett
Deputy Director of Pharmacy

Date: 7th March 2024

Subject: **Product Shortage: IV Paracetamol**

Dear All,

There is a critical global shortage in the supply of intravenous (IV) paracetamol products due to a raw material issue. This supply shortage is expected to continue until 30 June 2024, with the potential for it to extend until December 2024. Oral and rectal preparations of paracetamol remain available.

All stock of paracetamol IV has now been removed from the general ward areas and we are restricting supply to the priority areas such as theatres and ICU.

Prescribers, kindly review patients on a regular basis and de-escalate to oral paracetamol as soon as it is clinically suitable. Please also consider the use of alternative analgesics to preserve the remaining intravenous stock for those in critical need.

I will continue to update you with more information as I receive it, but should you have any questions in the interim please don't hesitate to contact me.