

Table of Discontinued Antiseptics and Available Alternatives

Situation

A number of antiseptic agents were discontinued from the Australian market or divested from one sponsor to another in 2022. For those that have been divested (i.e., ownership of the product has transferred from one sponsor to another) it is unclear when the product will be made available by the new sponsor. The below table has been prepared to outline the products affected by this discontinuation and potential alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs.

Impacts of this communication on clinical practice

Actions to address the discontinuation of the following antiseptic products should be coordinated and implemented by the local Drug and Therapeutics Committee in consultation with the relevant stakeholders (including, but not limited to: Clinical Product Managers, representatives from Pharmacy, Infectious Diseases, Surgical Services and Infection Prevention and Control) considering the local context and identified indications for use.

Escalate concerns that are not able to be managed locally to CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au.

General principles

- Multi-dosing is not routinely recommended outside of Operating Theatre settings – where multi-dosing is considered ensure local guidelines and recommendations are followed.
- Non-sterile antiseptic preparations may be used for surgical skin preparation ensuring sterile fields are maintained.
- Chlorhexidine is an alternative antiseptic agent to povidone-iodine for skin preparation (see [WHO Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infection, 2nd edition](#)).
- Antiseptic products containing alcohol (such as chlorhexidine in alcohol) are flammable, may cause burns and should be used with care during cauterisation. These antiseptics should be used as per product instructions to minimise patient safety risks.

Specific to povidone-iodine

- TGA registered indications for povidone-iodine solution are for external use only. Use outside of the registered indications is off-label. The ACI Surgical Services Taskforce does not recommend off-label use of povidone iodine products.
- Povidone-iodine should be reserved for procedures where chlorhexidine is not appropriate/contraindicated (for example, use in the middle ear) and for patients with chlorhexidine allergy.

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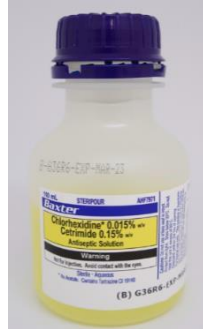
Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Acquired	PFIZER Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.015% + cetrimide 0.15% 30 mL plastic steritube ARTG: 57021	For cleansing and irrigating the skin and dirty wounds where an added surfactant effect is required.	Sterile		BAXTER (AHF7971) Chlorhexidine acetate 0.015% + cetrimide 0.15% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 329548 HPPL ID: 11752	For the cleaning and disinfecting of wounds and the antiseptic treatment of burns.	Sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative comes in a different volume. Consider look-alike, sound-alike risk with other Baxter products. Chlorhexidine salt of the alternative product is acetate. Theoretically, the smaller chemical size of the acetate salt may result in deeper skin penetration and thus a greater number of adverse effects compared to the gluconate salt. NEW INFORMATION (UPDATED AUGUST 2023) Bridgewest Perth Pharma have acquired this Pfizer product and it is now available from wholesalers. (Note – ARTG number remains the same)							

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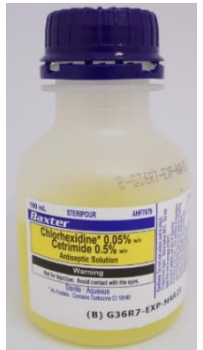
Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Divested	PFIZER Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.05% + cetrimide 0.5% 30 mL plastic steritube ARTG: 57011	For cleansing and irrigating the skin and dirty wounds where an added surfactant effect is required.	Sterile		BAXTER (AHF7979) Chlorhexidine acetate 0.05% + cetrimide 0.5% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 19460 HPPL ID: 18499	For the cleaning and disinfecting of wounds as an antiseptic treatment for burns.	Sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative comes in a different volume. Consider look-alike, sound-alike risk with other Baxter products. 							

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Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Discontinued	PFIZER Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.5% + alcohol 70% 25 mL plastic tube ARTG: 11294	For topical antiseptics.	Non-sterile		PERRIGO (Surgi-Prep C) Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.5% + alcohol 70% 30 mL bottle ARTG: 319262 HPPL ID: 45805	Tinted antiseptic applied to patient's skin prior to invasive medical procedures. Reduces bacteria that can cause skin infection.	Non-sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative comes in different volume, presented in 30 mL bottle (100 mL and 500 mL bottle sizes also available). Discontinued product was tinted pink, alternative available in both pink (non-staining, listed in table above) and red (staining) tint. Suggested alternative (Surgi-Prep C) should not be confused with Surgi-Prep C+ which contains 2% of chlorhexidine. 							

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Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Acquired	PFIZER Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.1% (1:1000) aqueous 30 mL plastic steritube ARTG: 11175	For skin and wound irrigation or dressing to prevent and control infection.	Sterile		BAXTER Chlorhexidine acetate 0.1% aqueous solution 100 mL bottle ARTG: 329547 HPPL ID: 19444	For the cleaning and disinfecting of wounds and the antiseptic treatment of burns.	Sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative comes in a different volume and is a different salt of chlorhexidine which may not be suitable for certain indications e.g., ophthalmic use. Consider look-alike, sound-alike risk with other Baxter products. NEW INFORMATION (UPDATED AUGUST 2023) Bridgewest Perth Pharma have acquired this Pfizer product and it is now available from wholesalers. (Note – ARTG number remains the same)							
Divested	PFIZER Hydrogen peroxide 3% 30 mL plastic steritube ARTG: 11385	A topical solution for the cleansing and debridement of wounds.	Sterile		ORION Hydrogen peroxide 3% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 11383 HPPL ID: 40004	For the cleansing and debridement of wounds and ulcers.	Non-sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative comes in a different volume. 							

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Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Discontinued	PFIZER Povidone iodine 10% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 10796	A topical antiseptic for use as pre-operative skin antiseptic and for the treatment of minor cuts, abrasions and skin infections.	Non-sterile		HERRON (Riodine) Povidone iodine 10% 500 mL bottle ARTG: 21199 HPPL ID: 12363	For antiseptics of minor cuts, wounds and abrasions and treatment of minor skin infections.	Non-sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative has no ARTG indication as pre-operative skin antiseptics. 							
Discontinued	PFIZER Povidone iodine 5% (Half strength) 100 mL bottle ARTG: 11375	A skin antiseptic for eyelid and eyebrow preparation before ophthalmological procedures and surgery.	Non-sterile		No identified alternative – Riodine 10% product (not sterile, see above) can be diluted to desired concentration.			

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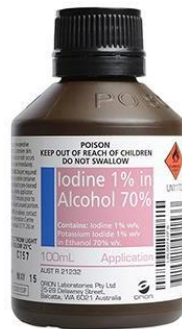




Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Discontinued	PFIZER (Alcoholic Povidone-Iodine Solution) Povidone iodine 10% + alcohol 70% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 11298	A skin marking antiseptic for pre-operative skin preparation.	Non-sterile		SANOFI (Betadine Alcoholic Skin Prep) Povidine iodine 10% + alcohol 30% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 29557 HPPL ID: 14969	A non-staining (to skin and natural fabrics) and film-forming antiseptic.	Non-sterile	
					ORION Iodine 1% + alcohol 70% 100 mL bottle ARTG: 21232 HPPL ID: 12932	Disinfection of unbroken skin prior to surgery.	Non-sterile	
					Important considerations relating to the suggested alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note difference in alcohol concentrations between the Sanofi and originator Pfizer product which may diminish antiseptic action.Sanofi product is non-staining. It is also film forming which may prolong duration of action.The alcohol content in Sanofi alternative is present as a vehicle to assist drying on the skin. Follow local guidelines and recommendations as multi-dosing of alternative is not routinely recommended.Alcohol in both identified alternatives is ethanol compared to isopropyl alcohol in discontinued product.			

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Status	Product affected	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image	Alternatives for consideration by LHDs/SHNs	ARTG indication	Sterility	Product image
Divested	PFIZER Povidone iodine 10% 30 mL steritube ARTG: 12643	A topical antiseptic for use as a pre-operative skin antiseptic and for the treatment of minor cuts, abrasions and skin infections.	Sterile		IMPORTED BY REACH PHARM (Dukal) Povidine iodine 10% ¾ oz (~ 22 mL) pouch Available via Section 19A (S19A) HPPL ID: 48379	A topical antiseptic for use as a pre-operative skin antiseptic.	Sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: Alternative comes in a different volume. NEW INFORMATION (UPDATED APRIL 2024) Alternative is not suitable for use in the eyes as per the product label and contains alkyl glucoside, an ocular irritant.							
Discontinued	PERRIGO/ORION (Pre-op wash) Triclosan 1% 40 mL tube ARTG: 10851	A foaming emollient antiseptic soap for pre-operative washing to cleanse and disinfect the skin.	Non-sterile		PERRIGO/ORION (Pre-op wash) Chlorhexidine 4% 50 mL tube ARTG: 11329 HPPL ID: 12927/41362	For disinfection of the skin prior to surgery.	Non-sterile	
	Important considerations relating to the suggested alternative: Chlorhexidine is not a suitable alternative in neonates. No suitable alternatives for neonates have been identified to date. Further investigation to follow.							