

Antibiotic Alert

National Shortage of Pristinamycin

This alert provides information for **Infectious Diseases / Microbiology / Sexual Health Physicians** regarding the national shortage of pristinamycin and provides guidance from the SA expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (SAAGAR) for addressing this shortage.

Pristinamycin is an oral, last-line antimicrobial agent used for the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), other Gram-positive and anaerobic organisms (e.g., *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Enterococcus faecium*) and Gram-negative organisms such as *Mycoplasma genitalium*, that are resistant to other agents, or when other agents are contraindicated or not tolerated by the patient.

Pristinamycin (Pyostacine®) tablets are not registered in Australia. Pristinamycin is manufactured in France and accessed via the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Special Access Scheme (SAS).

Summary of issues

France is the sole manufacturer of pristinamycin globally. They have recently imposed an export ban resulting in Australian wholesalers unable to procure stock of pristinamycin. A small supply which was available from Link Healthcare has now been exhausted. A date has not been provided for the lifting of the export ban.

Addressing the shortage of pristinamycin

Prescribing of pristinamycin in SA public hospitals is restricted to Infectious Diseases / Microbiology / Sexual Health physicians or under their advice. There are limited or no oral alternatives available. To ensure continuity of care for patients:

- > Any stock which may be available at individual facilities should be reserved for existing patients. Once supply has been exhausted, existing patients will not be able to access further supply. If ongoing antimicrobial therapy is required, review by Infectious Diseases / Microbiology / Sexual Health is necessary.
- > New patients should not be commenced on pristinamycin therapy at this time. It is unclear if or when access to pristinamycin via SAS will resume.

For more information

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