

Ordering Soliris (Eculizumab) from Alexion Pharmaceuticals for pre-approved transplant patients

Alexion is the drug manufacturer for eculizumab. Since December 2022 they offer a service whereby the Transplant Centre of a pre-approved patient who is approaching activation onto the transplant list can purchase the first two doses of eculizumab on a named patient basis, in advance of the drug being required. If the drug is not used for that patient before expiry (because they were not transplanted in that timeframe), Alexion will provide replacement stock **without further charge**. This is a formal agreement with Alexion, and if the transplant centre would like to pursue this option, Alexion require a signed agreement with the transplant centre. This process usually requires the input of renal pharmacists and high-cost pharmacists.

This process negates the need for transplant centres to order the drug at the time of transplant, which can be fraught with difficulties, not least because it can take up to 12-48 hours for drug to be delivered from the point of ordering eculizumab from Alexion. As the patient requires the first dose of eculizumab immediately prior to insertion of the new kidney, there is a possibility the transplant might need to be cancelled.

The formalised process now offered by Alexion, which requires sign-up, also negates the historical practice of transplant centres having to order eculizumab on a “just in case” basis if they wanted to be sure of holding drug if a patient was called for transplant. Ordering on a “just in case” basis carries a financial risk to the Trust, because if the drug is not used before expiry, it would not be replaced free of charge.

If you would like information about the service offered by Alexion and how to access this, please contact us via email nuth.ahus.nurses@nhs.net or telephone us on 0191 28 20385

If transplant centres choose not to sign up with Alexion in relation to the above, we would recommend they follow the below advice in order to obtain eculizumab:

- ***Living donor transplantation***

These cases allow planning ahead, and ensuring eculizumab is obtained in advance of the transplant.

Alexion’s telephone number in **normal working hours (0800-1630hrs)** is **0800 1300 212** – this number is for the team who are specifically responsible for getting the drug sent out to a referring centre.

Pharmacist:

For orders of Eculizumab:

1. Follow your normal internal processes for ordering Eculizumab – Alexion’s contact details are shown in table 1.
2. Raise a purchase order for the order. Delivery will be the next business day for orders received by Alexion before 13:00 hrs. Please refer to Table 2 below for delivery schedule.

3. Email purchase order to Customer Operations Dept, Alexion – email: CustomerOperationsUK@alexion.com

4. To guarantee a next business day delivery, steps 1-3 should be completed before 13:00 hrs on Mon-Thurs. Please refer to Table 2 below for delivery schedule.

5. If orders are placed on a Friday or after 13:00hrs on a Thursday, please follow the same process, but the order will defer into the next week for delivery.

- *Deceased donor transplantation*

In the case of deceased donor transplantation, whereby the transplant centre has not signed up with Alexion to hold the drug on-site in advance, and eculizumab is therefore needed at very short notice, the order process is outlined below.

Pharmacists are key personnel in relation to sourcing eculizumab.

- **Emergency delivery process**

Alexion have a process in place for emergency drug procurement – this is funded by them and is free of charge to the NHS.

This service is available to the NHS 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays)

- Ring: Tel 0800 1300 212 (Mon-Fri 0800 – 1630hrs, Mon-Fri)

The Alexion telephone number for an Emergency Medical Situation is **0208 744 6611**.

This is a manned telephone line and is available:

- 16:30 to 08:00 hrs Mon – Fri
- 24 hrs a day during weekends and Bank Holidays

You should state that the drug is needed urgently and is a **medical emergency**

- Alexion are able to arrange delivery of drug within approximately 8 - 24 hours of the call for an Emergency Medical Situation, unless the delivery location is remote
- Alexion will ask the Pharmacist to confirm that the treating physician has deemed this to be an Emergency Medical Situation and will record details accordingly
- Alexion will ask you to send an email to customeroperationsuk@alexion.com, and in return they will send the emergency order form and request for you to fill it in, after that Alexion will arrange the delivery. The PO will be required the next working day.

Table 1: Alexion Customer Operations Contact Details

	Normal working hours (08:00 hrs to 16:30 hrs)	Outside of normal working hours
Mon	Tel 0800 1300 212 Email: customeroperationsUK@alexion.com	If <i>Medical Emergency</i> : Tel 0208 744 6611 <i>Non-medical emergency</i> : Call normal working hours 08:00 – 16:30 hrs, Mon-Fri
Tues		
Weds		
Thurs		
Fri		
Sat	<p style="text-align: center;">If <i>medical emergency</i>: Tel 0208 744 6611 (24 hrs / day)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Non-medical emergency</i>: Call 0800 1300 212 normal working hours 0800 hrs – 1630 hrs Mon-Fri</p>	
Sun		

Table 2: Delivery Schedule

	Order Received by Alexion 08:30hrs – 13:00hrs	Order Received by Alexion 13:00hrs – 16:30hrs	Order Received by Alexion After 16:30hrs
Mon	Next Business Day (Tues)	Next Business Day +1 day (Weds)	If <i>Medical Emergency</i> , delivery will be according to emergency timelines*
Tues	Next Business Day (Weds)	Next business day +1 day (Thurs)	
Weds	Next Business Day (Thurs)	Next business day +1 day (Fri)	
Thurs	Next Business Day (Fri)	Next business day +1 day (Mon)	
Fri	Next Business Day (Mon)	Next business day +1 day (Tues)	
Sat	If <i>Medical Emergency</i> , delivery will be according to emergency timelines*		
Sun (Including Bank Holidays)			

Remote location &/ or issues associated with COVID-19.

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Adverse events should be reported.

Reporting forms and information can be found at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk>

Adverse events should also be reported to Alexion at AstraZenecaUKMCDrugSafety@astrazeneca.com or freephone: 0800 321 3902