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Dear Patient

In October 2019 the Medicines and Health Care Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued an alert concerning Zantac (Ranitidine) and recalled all unexpired stock. Subsequently, manufacturers of the generic version of this medication have also decided to stop production pending further investigation of the concerns.

This medication is used to treat conditions such as heartburn and stomach ulcers. There is currently no evidence that medicines in this group have caused any harm to patients, but the MHRA are closely monitoring the situation and we await updates.

As we are unable to source this medication, you now have several choices which are as follows:

- 1) Stop taking this medication and have a break. Many people find that their symptoms have resolved over time and that they can use simple over-the-counter remedies for intermittent symptoms should they occur.
- 2) Use over-the-counter remedies such as Peptac, Gaviscon Omeprazole and indigestion tablets. Your local pharmacist would be able to advise you on all the different options of which there are many.
- 3) Try an alternative to Zantac such as Omeprazole or Lansoprazole. This medication works in a slightly different way to target the same symptoms. We recommend that it is used on an intermittent basis, but there are some people who need to take it daily. If you would like to choose this option, the clinical pharmacist or GP will review your medications to make sure that it is safe for you to try.
- 4) Sometimes there are alternative drugs in the same category as Zantac/Ranitidine that are available, but we have had difficulty sourcing them recently. If we are able to obtain these medications then we can prescribe them, however, we cannot guarantee continued supply at the current time. Not all alternative medications are available on the NHS.

Please tick the options that you would like to try above and we will update your medical records. We recommend that you **do not** use the emergency/duty doctor to discuss this problem and if you need to talk to someone, the clinical pharmacist will be able to help and advise you.

Yours sincerely

Dr Isabel Welch
Medicines Management Lead and GP Partner

Patient Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Mobile number:	