

# Greenwich Clinical Matters

July 2021

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### Updated Patient Decision Aid - AstraZeneca (AZ) Covid-19 vaccine and the risk of blood clotting

Capillary leak syndrome is now included as a contraindication to the AZ vaccine. Please see the [SPC](#) for further information. The patient decision aid (PDA) has subsequently been updated to reflect this.

**Action:** Please see attachment for updated PDA. The document also provides information on managing suspected adverse effects from the vaccine.

### Covid-19 vaccination in pregnancy

NHSE/I has issued a [letter](#) which describes how we need to 'make every contact count' in providing evidence-based advice to women on the benefits of vaccination in pregnancy for them and their babies.

**Action:** For the latest bite-sized advice for use with women, please see the [Public Health England leaflet for all women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding](#), and the [RCOG/RCM information leaflet and decision aid](#). More detailed guidance and evidence can be found in [chapter 14a](#) of the Green Book, and on the [RCOG](#) website.

### Chloramphenicol eye drops

The [MHRA](#) has reviewed the available toxicological data and a calculation of daily exposure to boron from a typical dosing regimen, and have concluded that the balance between the benefits and risks of chloramphenicol eye drops containing borax or boric acid remains positive for children aged 0 to 2 years. Chloramphenicol eye drops can be safely administered to children aged 0 to 2 years where antibiotic eye drop treatment is indicated.

**Action:** Advice for healthcare professionals to provide to parents and carers

- eye infections (conjunctivitis) are very common in babies and infants and it is important they are treated properly
- chloramphenicol eye drops are an important medicine for treating bacterial eye infections in children and have been used safely for many years
- some eye drops contain borax or boric acid, which are sources of boron – these ingredients are included as buffers to make sure the medicine is not too acidic or alkaline and is comfortable when administered to the eye
- although concerns have been raised about boron and a possible effect on future fertility, these products can be safely given to children younger than 2 years as advised by a doctor or other prescriber
- experts have advised that the amount of liquid that can be absorbed through the eyes of young children and the way these products are prescribed mean that the daily exposure to children would be well below the calculated safety limits

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### Reminder to action if not already done - Inappropriate anticoagulation of patients with a mechanical heart valve

Since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 14 incidents have been reported nationally for patients with a mechanical heart valve being switched to a LMWH (e.g., enoxaparin) or a DOAC (e.g., edoxaban); 2 patients were hospitalised with valve thrombosis and 1 was hospitalised with severe anaemia.

The Open SAFELY team have discovered 750 patients nationally with a code for a mechanical heart valve and a DOAC prescription. For EMIS practices, you may have been contacted via a 'task' from EMIS to urgently review any patients identified at your practice to ensure they are prescribed appropriate anticoagulation and monitoring.

**Action:** Please contact local AC teams if you identify a patient that requires a review:

- For UHL: [LH.Anticoagulation@nhs.net](mailto:LH.Anticoagulation@nhs.net)
- For QEH: [LG.QEAnticoagulant@nhs.net](mailto:LG.QEAnticoagulant@nhs.net) or [lg.qe-anticoagreferrals@nhs.net](mailto:lg.qe-anticoagreferrals@nhs.net)
- For PRUH: [kch-tr.br-anticoag@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.br-anticoag@nhs.net)
- For KCH: [kch-tr.dh-anticoag@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.dh-anticoag@nhs.net)
- For GSTT: [gst-tr.anticoag@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.anticoag@nhs.net)
- Bexley, for community service: [anticoag.bellegrove@nhs.net](mailto:anticoag.bellegrove@nhs.net)
- Bromley, for Boots community service: [muhammad.patel@boots.co.uk](mailto:muhammad.patel@boots.co.uk)

### South East London Primary Care Lipid Management Educational Webinar

You are invited to a lipid management educational webinar for primary care on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August from 7pm to 8.30pm**

Specialist pharmacists from across SEL will discuss:

1. Use of high intensity statins in primary and secondary prevention of CVD
2. Statin intolerance, shared decision making and statin hesitancy
3. Lipid clinic referral criteria and alternative options for the reduction of cholesterol and CVD risk
4. Introduction to new pathways for SEL, NICE guidance and UCL Partners pathways for lipid management
5. Q&A

**Action:** Numbers are limited so please sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-east-london-gp-lipid-management-educational-webinar-tickets-165408596565>. This event will be recorded, and the webinar will be repeated on **23<sup>rd</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October** (12.30 to 2pm).

### Eclipse update

There is now a COVID 19 icon on the eclipse SMRLive page for practices to use. Once clicked into, it lists various cohorts based on eclipse's own covid protect model

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### [SEL Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee \(IMOC\)](#)

The following IMOC decisions / outputs have been ratified through SEL IMOC and SEL Medicines Optimisation sub-Committee Chair's action and can be accessed via the links below.

#### New:

- Guidance on the use of [dapagliflozin for the management of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction \(HFrEF\) in people WITHOUT DIABETES](#). Educational events are being planned by the cardiovascular sub-group leads to help support prescribers in primary care.
- [Outcomes monitoring framework for dupilumab in the management of atopic dermatitis](#)
- Formulary inclusion of a once daily acetylcysteine product - [Mucolight™](#) (600mg tablets) as a **third line** preparation (after carbocysteine and effervescent N-acetylcysteine [NACSYS]) for the reduction of sputum viscosity in respiratory disorders.
- Following publication of [NICE guidance](#), an **INTERIM** "Red, Amber Grey" (RAG) category for bempedoic acid of **red** (prescribing and supply by specialist only) in SEL.
- [Formulary inclusion](#) of pitolisant for the management of idiopathic hypersomnia (off-label use).

#### UPDATED

- Review dates for the SEL adult [asthma](#) and [COPD](#) management guidelines extended to March 2022 and April 2022 respectively.
- Extension to time limited formulary recommendations for [Buvidal™](#) and [Nyxoid™](#). These agents are categorised as **red** in SEL.
- Removal of Simple Eye Ointment from the SEL Formulary – following a significant increase in the price of this product. Alternatives can be found in the SEL [Joint Medicines Formulary](#).
- Recategorisation of N-acetylcysteine [NACSYS] effervescent tablets from **amber 2** to **amber 1** in the SEL [Joint Medicines Formulary](#)

### [Medicine supply Notifications \(MSN\)](#)

*Full details for each MSN attached*

- A shortage of the ERIS™ automatic safety system will impact the availability of several **Clexane® pre-filled syringes** from **September** until **November 2021**.
- **Locorten Vioform®** (flumetasone/clioquinol) 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops are out of stock until **April 2022**. Alternative topical combination steroid and antibacterial preparations for the ear are available.
- Very limited supplies of **Catapres® (clonidine) 100microgram tablets** are available until **w/c 4th October 2021**. Clonidine 25 microgram tablets remain available and able to support a full increase in demand.
- **Nexium** (esomeprazole) **10mg gastro-resistant granules sachets** are out of stock until **w/c 16th August 2021**. Alternative liquid or dispersible tablet formulations of PPIs remain available.
- Click [here](#) to see **Tuberculosis (TB) agents** that have been impacted by supply issues.

## PRIMARY CARE

### [Update on blood testing services Greenwich](#)

Last year, the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust moved from a walk-in blood testing service to a booking blood testing service, to meet Covid-19 infection control guidelines. This resulted in a significant loss of phlebotomy appointment capacity due to necessary constraints on the use of space and the need to accommodate additional cleaning requirements. As a result of recent work to improve capacity, all Greenwich patients are now being offered an appointment **within 72 hours**, with most patients offered an appointment on the same or next day.

**Action:** Please see attachment for further details. If you have any questions about this information, please send them directly to Gemma O'Neil ([gemma.o'neil@nhs.net](mailto:gemma.o'neil@nhs.net)).

## SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

### [Co-ordinate My Care \(CMC\) Newsletter](#)

The current Greenwich Borough CMC incentive scheme has been extended to end of September 2021. Practices will continue to be remunerated £50 for each record created. For further details contact Alex Pini: [a.pini@nhs.net](mailto:a.pini@nhs.net)  
Please also find attached new quarterly newsletter with information on number of records made, news, good practice and training opportunities.

**Action:** Continue to create and update CMC records for end of life and appropriate patients to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and to help achieve preferred place of death.

### [Cambridge Diabetes Education Programme \(CDEP\)](#)

'Bite-sized' diabetes training available for healthcare staff to help improve knowledge, boost confidence and promote safe patient care

**Action:** See CDEP Flyer attached for details on how to register

### [Invitation for expressions of interest – Dermatology pathway work](#)

We are looking for GPs to join a small cross-organisational / professional team who are looking at the future of the local dermatology pathway. The programme of work will bring clinicians from across the system together over a number of weeks to focus on developing a sustainable blueprint for the dermatology pathway of the future. Participating GPs will be able to access 2 x 30-minute coaching sessions to explore and develop their service improvement capability. Time commitment will be flexible, and the project is set to run between August and October 2021.

**Action:** For more information or to register your interest, please contact Gemma O'Neil, Deputy Director for System Development at [gemma.o'neil@nhs.net](mailto:gemma.o'neil@nhs.net). Enquiries are welcome by Friday August 20.

## Contact Details

**Meds Management:** [greccg.pharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:greccg.pharmacy@nhs.net) (020 3049 9000)

**Primary Care:** Jan Matthews: [jan.matthews@nhs.net](mailto:jan.matthews@nhs.net)

**System Development:** Alex Pini: [a.pini@nhs.net](mailto:a.pini@nhs.net)