

Greenwich Clinical Matters

March 2021

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

[AZ Covid-19 vaccine and VTE risk](#)

Following the media reports regarding the risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE), the SEL Cardiovascular pharmacist has gathered some information (attached) that may help if questioned on this by patients attending for COVID-19 vaccination. The key points to reassure patients are:

- Reports of blood clots received so far are not greater than the number that would have occurred naturally in the vaccinated population.
- So far across the EU and UK, there have been 15 events of DVT and 22 events of pulmonary embolism reported among those given the vaccine, based on the number of cases the Company has received as of 8 March. This is much lower than would be expected to occur naturally in a general population of this size and is similar across other licensed COVID-19 vaccines.
- Furthermore, in clinical trials, even though the number of thrombotic events was small, these were lower in the vaccinated group.

The local Anticoagulant teams have also discussed this today and their feedback has been added at the end of the attached document.

[SEL Position statement for items available over-the-counter \(OTC\) for self-care](#)

The prescribing of items available OTC for self-care is NOT supported by South East London CCGs' prescribers. In line with NHS England's [national guidance](#) on Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

This is because these conditions may be:

- considered to be self-limiting and so do not need treatment as they will heal or be cured of their own accord.
- considered to lend itself to self-care i.e., the person suffering does not normally need to seek medical advice and can manage the condition by purchasing OTC items directly.

The OTC items included:

- can be purchased over the counter, sometimes at a lower cost than that which would be incurred by the NHS.
- there is little evidence of clinical effectiveness.

Additionally, the routine prescribing of vitamins, minerals and probiotics is also NOT supported due to limited robust evidence of clinical effectiveness.

Note for Prescribers: The [General List of OTC products with Sale Exclusions](#) informs criteria where the patient cannot buy the product OTC due to product licensing criteria.

SYSTEM DEVELOPEMENT

[Post-COVID Assessment Clinics at KCH and GSTT](#)

Specialist post-COVID syndrome assessment clinics are to be delivered by King's Health Partners in SEL. These clinics are specifically assessing patients who are experiencing signs and symptoms following an infection consistent with Covid-19, that have continued after more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.

As demand created by the second wave of the pandemic reduces, the clinics will be open for referrals and assessment using a phased approach:

- King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill / Tessa Jowell Health Centre clinics now open for referrals.
- GSTT, St Thomas' clinic will open Friday, 1 April.
- King's PRUH clinics, date to be confirmed.

Further information on referrals could be found in the attached documents.

Please ensure that prior to identifying patients for assessment in the specialist clinics, all the relevant referral information and investigations (bloods, CXR etc) are complete to prevent rejected referrals or missed diagnosis.

GPs can also direct patients to

<https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/> for general support and information

[Patients with previous gestational diabetes](#)

You may already be aware that women with previous gestational diabetes have been sent a letter recommending that they shield.

Some women with previous GDM have been moved in to the CEV group because of their relative risk compared to women of the same age. The GDM and QCovid risk score has been used to identify women with GDM based on their relative risk rather than absolute risk and would include other factors such as BMI, ethnicity etc.

National guidance steps can be used to advise patients who may contact you for advice.

[NOTE: The bulletin includes a sizeable section, with links to resources on the new National Diabetes Prevention Programme framework]

[Local Vaccination 'bitesize' bulletin](#)

Greenwich COVID Bitesize Bulletin up to 5 March 2021 is attached for at-a-glance information about Covid and the vaccination programme in the borough.

[International Women's Day – Royal Borough of Greenwich video](#)

This year to celebrate International Women's Day our colleagues at Royal Borough of Greenwich asked residents to nominate women who have shown strength, ingenuity, and resilience or have gone above and beyond their call of duty during the pandemic. They have produced this excellent video celebrating women in the borough, some of whom you may recognise: <https://youtu.be/9Fhi6MvKDbg>

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:

- Interim 1-year [formulary inclusion](#) of **Sativex™ oromucosal spray as amber 3** (transfer of care after 3 months using shared care guideline) for the treatment of moderate to severe spasticity associated with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This follows publication of a [NICE guideline](#) on the use of cannabis based medicinal products.
- **Updated resources for Flash Glucose monitoring**
The existing resources have been updated to: (i) include the Freestyle Libre 2 (FSL2) device and (ii) Include use of Flash Glucose in people with Learning Disabilities, which was added to the NHS England Criteria in November 2020. The [SEL IMOC Position Statement for Flash Glucose Monitoring](#) has also been updated to reflect these changes.

The following updated resources are available via [this webpage](#):

- [Pathway](#) for use of flash glucose monitoring
- Flash glucose [initiation letter](#)
- Transfer of prescribing and patient-prescribing [agreement](#)
- Flash glucose [6-9 month review](#)
- Recommended training [competencies and resources](#)
- Patient [FAQ document](#)
- Primary care [information sheet](#)
- Community pharmacy [information sheet](#)
- [Primary care letter](#) informing of changeover from FreeStyle Libre® to FreeStyle Libre® 2

[Drug Safety Update](#)

- [Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops contraindicated in patients under 2 years old.](#)

There has been a change to the product literature for Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops (including Minims), contraindicating their use in patients under 2 years of age due to concerns over the excipient boron which may impact future fertility of patients. Please see the memo prepared by KCH colleagues attached above for further information.

[NICE Update](#)

NICE has developed [a new single guideline](#) to bring together the recommendations for managing COVID-19 in children, young people and adults in all care settings. It includes [new recommendations on therapeutics](#) and replaces the COVID-19 rapid guidelines on

- critical care in adults
- managing symptoms (including at the end of life) in the community
- managing suspected or confirmed pneumonia in adults in the community
- acute myocardial injury
- antibiotics for pneumonia in adults in hospital
- acute kidney injury in hospital reducing the risk of venous thromboembolism in over 16s with COVID-19.

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

- [Secondary bacterial infection of eczema and other common skin conditions: antimicrobial prescribing. NICE guideline \[NG190\]](#). Published date: 02 March 2021
- [Safeguarding adults in care homes. NICE guideline \[NG189\]](#). Published date: 26 February 2021

[Out of stock update \(See Medicine supply notification \[MSN\] attachments for further information\)](#)

Fluoxetine 40mg capsules out of stock until 17 May 21, the following option will be acceptable:

- 2 x 20mg fluoxetine capsules

Ensure patients are counselled on the change in strength and dose.

Fluoxetine 30mg capsules out of stock until 17 May 21, the following options will be acceptable:

- 3 x fluoxetine 10mg capsules
- 1 x 20mg fluoxetine capsule **PLUS** 1 x 10mg fluoxetine capsule

Ensure patients are counselled on the change in strength and dose.

Chloral hydrate 143.3mg in 5ml oral solution out of stock until September 2021

Where patients have insufficient supplies, clinicians should:

- review ongoing need for treatment.
- prescribe 143.3mg in 5ml chloral hydrate solution as a special if ongoing treatment is deemed necessary.

For further information, please check attached document.

[Preconception care resources for women with serious mental illness \(SMI\)](#)

These resources were designed to inform the practice of professionals working in primary care settings with women with SMI. The resources support conversations about healthy pregnancies in routine clinical contacts. Please see the links below for further information.

- <https://www.tommys.org/pregnancyhub/health-professionals/free-pregnancy-resources/guide-delivering-preconception-care>

Preconception resources for women with SMI to help plan healthy pregnancies

- A website hub: www.tommys.org/planning-a-pregnancy-and-mental-illness
- A pregnancy planning tool: www.tommys.org/planningforpregnancy
- Information animation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbF7IEhoCwc&feature=emb_logo
- Instagram live discussion with Prof Louise Howard and Rosie from MIND https://www.instagram.com/tommys_pregnancyhub/?hl=en

Please contact Katie Atmore

(Katherine.1.atmore@kcl.ac.uk) for any queries relating to the above resources.

Contact Details

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