

Greenwich Clinical Matters

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Cost effective prescribing of Carbimazole tablets

Carbimazole is licensed for use in the management of hyperthyroidism. Treatment doses vary between 5mg to 60mg daily. There are significant differences between the cost of the various strengths of carbimazole and savings can be made if patients are switched to 5mg and 20mg tablets. Please see, below, carbimazole strength pack size Drug Tariff cost (August 2022)

Carbimazole	Drug Tariff Price
5mg pack of 100	£2.45
10mg pack of 100	£81.32
15mg pack of 100	£165.72
20mg pack of 100	£3.67

Action

- Practices should switch those prescribed 10mg and 15mg tablets to the cost effective 5mg and 20mg tablets.
- Although the 20mg tablets are scored, this is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and NOT to divide into equal doses.
- Patients are to be informed of any switches to avoid administration errors. The dose should be clearly specified on the prescription and the change communicated to the patient's community pharmacy.
- Please ensure patients are counselled on the switch, to avoid patients inadvertently taking increased number of tablets of the higher strengths of carbimazole that they may still have at home.
- Those with adherence issues should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Women of childbearing potential are advised to use effective contraception during treatment. For the MHRA Drug Safety Update. Carbimazole: increased risk of congenital malformations; strengthened advice on contraception. February 2019 link see below <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/carbimazole-increased-risk-of-congenital-malformations-strengthened-advice-on-contraception>

Updated Patient Group Direction (PGD)

NHS England - London has published an updated PGDs on its website. For access see below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/our-work/immunisation-team/> The updated PGDs are:

- NHSE UKHSA PPV23 PGD v04.00
- NHSE UKHSA DTaP IPV Hib Hep B PGD v04.00
- NHSE UKHSA Smallpox PGD v01.00
- NHSE UKHSA Td IPV PGD v05.00

Action: Ensure that any registered healthcare professional who is due to administer vaccinations under this PGD should be made aware of this updated version. For IPV booster information see **Attachment 1**

For any queries, please contact the London Immunisations team via england.londonimms@nhs.net

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Supporting advice to GP practices on the administration of the seasonal 'flu vaccination to staff via PGD

The release of advice on the use of Patient Group Directions (PGDs) within Occupational Health Services (OHS) and the Written Instruction for the administration of seasonal 'flu vaccination to staff have raised questions specifically relating to the provision of the vaccine to staff working in GP practices. **Attachment 2** outlines the available options that can be considered by GP practices.

Action

- Advice should be read in conjunction with the following advice published at <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/pgds-and-occupational-health-schemes/> and <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/>
- All staff with a clinical condition which makes them eligible for the national seasonal influenza vaccination programme under the NHS should be encouraged to attend their own GP surgery or community pharmacy to obtain this vaccination. Practitioners are responsible for ensuring they have appropriate indemnity insurance.
- Provision of the vaccination to staff should generally be reserved for those who do not qualify for the seasonal 'flu vaccination under the eligibility criteria listed in the current annual national 'flu programme.
- Practitioners are responsible for ensuring they have appropriate indemnity insurance.

NHS and Private Interface Prescribing

As we see more requests from private doctors due to NHS waiting lists, prescribers are reminded of the South East London NHS and Private Interface Prescribing Guide.

Action: For access to the NHS and Private-Interface-Prescribing-Guide, see https://selondonccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/09/NHS-and-Private-Interface-Prescribing-Guide-2019-21-FINAL-Extended-Nov-22-.pdf

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: DIABETES

Diabetes Nurse Specialist (DNS)

Following on from the Greenwich workshop meeting, GP practices are being notified of the following DNS for each Primary Care Network (PCN) in Greenwich as follows:

- Siobhan Linane** - Riverview Health and Eltham Health
- Chinasa Uzor** - Blackheath/Charlton and Greenwich West
- Sara Fisk** - Unity and Heritage

Action: If you need any support, please contact the team either by phone on 020 8319 7078 or email oxl-tr.diabetes@nhs.net

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SEL Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC)

The following IMOC decisions/outputs are now available and can be accessed via the links:

NEW

- [Good practice guidance on the safe use of 'when required' \(PRN\) medicines in care homes](#) has been developed through the SEL care homes group. The guidance aims to support all care home staff to appropriately administer 'when required' medicines safely to care home residents.

UPDATED

- The [guideline for the use of sodium glucose co-transporter 2 \(SGLT2i\) in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction \(HFrEF\) without diabetes mellitus](#) has been updated to include empagliflozin as a treatment option in line with [NICE TA 773](#). The update includes re-categorisation of NICE approved SGLT2i (dapagliflozin and empagliflozin) in this setting to **amber 1** (initiation in primary care after a recommendation from an appropriate specialist). Please refer to the [SEL Joint Medicine Formulary](#) for further information.
- The [pharmacological management of neuropathic pain in adults in primary care](#), has been reviewed and updated in line with updated [NICE guidance](#) and local expertise. The following associated resources have also been updated:
 - [Guide to deprescribing lidocaine 5% Plasters in primary care](#)
 - [Position Statement 011 - lidocaine plasters for the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia \(licensed use\), and focal neuropathic pain with allodynia \(off-label\)](#)
 - The [vitamin D guideline for children](#) has been reviewed and updated. One of the main changes for this update is the recommendation of only one vitamin D formulation (Thorens™ 10,000 units/ml drops) to support the reduction in prescribing of unlicensed vitamin D products.
- The [guideline for the management of cow's milk allergy \(CMA\) and prescribing of hypoallergenic formula in primary care](#) has been reviewed and updated by the SEL paediatric support dieticians. Further information can also be found under the dedicated [paediatric \(cow's milk allergy\) nutrition](#) webpage.
- Formulary inclusion of cyanocobalamin (Orobalin™) 1mg tablets as a **green** medicine for the management of vitamin B12 deficiency where administration of IM hydroxocobalamin is not possible or not tolerated. Please refer to the [SEL Joint Medicine Formulary](#) for further information.
- Formulary inclusion of subcutaneous vedolizumab as a **red** medicine (hospital prescribing only) for the management of IBD (ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease) in line with the [SEL inflammatory bowel disease treatment pathways](#). Please refer to the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) for further information.

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Drug Safety Update

Topiramate (Topamax): Study reports an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disabilities in children with prenatal exposure: A recent study reported prenatal exposure to topiramate to be associated with an increased risk of autism and intellectual disability. A safety review has now been started to evaluate these findings, in addition to exploring the need for additional risk minimisation measures with the use of topiramate during pregnancy.

Action:

- Counsel patients on the importance of avoiding pregnancy during topiramate treatment and importance of contraception whilst on treatment.
- For migraine prophylaxis, topiramate can be withdrawn in pregnancy and alternative treatments should be considered.
- For epilepsy, urgently refer anyone on topiramate who is planning a pregnancy or who is pregnant for specialist advice. For further information, [click here](#).

Recall of Mexiletine 50mg, 100mg and 200mg capsules – National Patient Safety Alert: Clinigen Healthcare Ltd is initiating a recall of three batches of Mexiletine hydrochloride hard capsules due to a filling error causing potential risk of underdose or overdose, which could have consequences for the safety of patients.

Action:

- Immediately contact all patients who have been prescribed Mexiletine Capsules since 10 February 2022 to confirm the manufacturer and batch number on the drug packaging.
- Discuss alternative mexiletine manufacturer with community pharmacy or alternative treatment with specialist as it is classified as **RED** medicine in SEL.
- Discuss the risk of cardiac arrhythmias with patients and advise them to seek urgent medical attention if they experience any new or worsening of symptoms of an arrhythmia. For further information, [click here](#).

Out of Stock Updates

HRT products

The Department of Health and Social Care have extended twelve of the thirteen Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) covering Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines. These are SSP019, SSP020 and SSPs 022 to 031.

The dose equivalence advice and endorsement guidance for SSPs 024 and 025 have been updated.

- The end date for the above SSPs will now be 28 October 2022.
- SSP021 is not being extended and will end on 29 July 2022.

Action:

For further information [click here](#)

For any queries please contact the NHS Prescription Service (nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk) if you have any queries regarding the SSPs above.

Contact Details

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