

# Greenwich Clinical Matters



## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### [Quality Improvement Project: Sustainability and Asthma Prescribing](#)

Metered-dose inhalers contain harmful chemicals that can be released into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming, if not disposed of correctly. The UK goes through 73 million inhalers every year, many going to landfill. Disposing of every inhaler correctly for one year in the UK would stop the release of 512,330 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> created by driving a car around the world 88,606 times.

The correct way of disposing of inhalers is by returning them to the pharmacy, which can be done when picking up a new prescription.

#### Action:

- Display [poster](#) in the practice and use the information on the poster to raise patient awareness on how to reduce damage to our environment for future generations.

### [How to reduce the carbon footprint of inhaler prescribing](#)

This guide from Greener Practice supports healthcare professionals to reduce the carbon footprint of inhaler prescribing safely and effectively in collaboration with patients, whilst optimising patient care. It can aid achieving sustainable NHS objectives in the Investment and Impact Fund. Please see key recommendations [here](#).

### [NICE Updates](#)

#### Otitis media (acute): antimicrobial prescribing

[NICE NG91](#) updated to include a new recommendation on eardrops containing an anaesthetic and an analgesic.

#### Dapagliflozin for treating chronic kidney disease

[NICE TA775](#) recommend dapagliflozin for chronic kidney disease in adults as an add-on to optimised standard care.

#### Empagliflozin for treating chronic HF with reduced EF

[NICE TA773](#) recommend empagliflozin as an option for symptomatic chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction in adults.

#### Pitolisant hydrochloride and Solriamfetol update

[NICE TA776](#) and [NICE TA777](#) do NOT recommend pitolisant hydrochloride for excessive daytime sleepiness in adults with obstructive sleep apnoea.

#### Type 2 diabetes in adults: management – updated guidance ([NICE NG28](#))

Several recommendations on drug treatment have been amended following evidence review. Changes include amending “initial drug treatment with metformin” to “monotherapy” as certain patients may now be taking SGLT2 inhibitor as monotherapy at this stage.

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### [More cases of antibiotic resistant gonorrhoea identified in England – GOV.UK](#) (For the full report please [click here](#))

Three additional cases of gonorrhoea resistant to ceftriaxone have been identified; this is in addition to the case announced in December 2021. Follow-up tests are still awaited to see if treatment has been successful in these recent cases.

#### Action:

- Patient education and referral – using condoms consistently and correctly with all new or casual partners. STI testing is free and available through online self-sampling services or by contacting local sexual health services.

### [Awareness of long-term nitrofurantoin adverse effects](#)

A summary and context are provided for a [study](#) of long-term nitrofurantoin prescribing practices which found that most prescribers did not monitor for the possible liver or pulmonary adverse events as per recommendations in product SPCs.

### [MHRA Alerts](#)

#### **Class 2 Medicines Recall: Uni Health Distribution, Efudix® 5% w/w cream, EL (22)A 07 (see [link here](#))**

A potential issue occurred where the leaflet contained within Efudix® 5% w/w cream (2 x 20g) pack, batch 80193439/B may be incorrect. A market complaint noted that ‘Trajenta® 5mg tablets leaflet has been found in the cream package.’ The batch is being recalled from pharmacies as a precautionary measure.

#### Action:

- Healthcare professionals are urged to share the correct leaflet with the patient where affected: [Link to Efudix 5% w/w Cream PIL](#)

#### **Class 2 Medicines Recall: Wockhardt UK Ltd, Diazepam RecTubes 2.5mg Rectal Solution, EL (22)A 11 (see [link here](#))**

Batch number I55061 of Diazepam RecTubes 2.5mg Rectal Solution are being recalled due to an out of specification result for assay during routine stability testing.

### [Position Statement of Administration of Rectal Diazepam to Neonates and Infants to Treat Seizures Prior to Hospital Admission](#)

Diazepam 2.5mg rectal tubes are no longer available. Diazepam dosage of 1.25mg and 2.5mg cannot be directly administered from a 5mg rectal tube. [Position Statement from the Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacists Group](#) (NPPG) advises that the required dose is decanted prior to use and gives instructions on subsequent administration. Practical challenges for ambulance services means that buccal midazolam may not be a feasible alternative in the pre-hospital setting, at least in the medium term.

## 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:

#### NEW:

- Guidance on [prescribing and dispensing insulin safely](#). Developed by the Diabetes subgroup of the SEL IMOC, this guidance aims to better support the safe prescribing and dispensing of insulin in primary and secondary care.
- [Formulary inclusion](#) of Alkindi® (hydrocortisone granules for opening) 0.5mg, 1mg and 2mg for replacement therapy of adrenal insufficiency in infants and children as **amber 2** (*initiation and first prescription from the specialist paediatric team*). Certain criteria apply for use of Alkindi® – please refer to the [formulary recommendation](#) for further details.
- [Formulary inclusion](#) of saliva stimulating tablets (SST®) as an **amber 1** medicine (initiation in primary care after a recommendation from an appropriate specialist). SST® is reserved for use by oral medicine at GSTT – please refer to the [formulary entry](#).

#### UPDATED:

- [Formulary re-categorisation](#) of cariprazine for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults from **red** to **amber 2** (specialist initiation and prescribing for a minimum of 12 months and until the patient is stable. GP may be requested to prescribe after this period). Please refer to the [formulary recommendation](#) for further details. The criteria for use include that cariprazine is not a 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment option and it is restricted for use in patients with prominent and debilitating negative symptoms.
- The SEL [psoriasis biologic drug treatment pathway](#) and [psoriasis pathway outcomes and monitoring framework](#) have been updated through the dermatology sub-group. The main update is the inclusion of bimekizumab in line with [NICE guidance](#).

## SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

### [Greenwich COPD Diagnostic Service](#)

Oxleas are now in a position to restart their quality assured COPD diagnostic clinic in Greenwich.

To ensure patient safety, some changes have been made, these include securing the purchase and installation of a new HEPA filter to clean the air in between each patient, a newly agreed standard operating procedure aligning with our local infection prevention and control requirements and the additional training of 2 new staff members in ARTP certification.

The clinic will be delivered at the Eltham Community Hospital, twice a week. Oxleas is looking to move one of these clinics to a venue where they can improve access for patients more north of the borough. If your GP surgery would be interested in hosting this clinic, then please do get in contact with Helen Jefford at: [h.jefford@nhs.net](mailto:h.jefford@nhs.net)  
For Referral for Quality Assured COPD Diagnostic Spirometry in Greenwich Please see Appendix 1 in the attachment.

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### [Supply issue with Sulfasalazine \(Salazopyrin En-Tabs®\) 500mg gastro-resistant tablets](#) (see SSP)

Sulfasalazine (Salazopyrin En-Tabs®) 500mg gastro-resistant tablets are out of stock until w/c 11 April 2022.

- Generic versions of sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant tablets remain available.
- There are no known differences in bioavailability between the branded and generic products and they can be considered interchangeable.

#### Action:

- For patients with insufficient supplies, community pharmacists may supply sulfasalazine gastro-resistant 500mg tablets against the SSP for eligible patients. If the above option is not deemed appropriate, clinicians should:
  - Consider prescribing sulfasalazine 500mg gastro-resistant tablets generically to enable any manufacturer's product to be dispensed; and
  - Counsel patients regarding the switch from branded to generic at the point of dispensing.

### [Supply issue with Fluticasone 50mcg/ Formoterol 5mcg per dose \(Flutiform®\) inhaler CFC free](#) (see link)

Fluticasone 50mcg/ Formoterol 5mcg (Flutiform®) inhalers CFC free are out of stock until mid-April 2022.

#### Action:

- Flutiform® contains HFA227ea which has a much higher carbon footprint than the HFA134a used in other pMDIs. Take this opportunity to switch to low carbon footprint low-dose combination pMDIs or DPI after checking patient inhaler technique.

### [Potential Contamination of Alimentum® And Elecare® Infant Formula Food Products](#)

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has issued a product recall [alert](#) due to possible contamination of Alimentum® Similac and Elecare® Similac with *Salmonella*. This alert has been shared by the [MHRA](#) as these products are prescribed and used in healthcare settings. Healthcare professionals prescribing and supplying these products will therefore need to consider alternative products until the situation is resolved.

#### Action:

- Alternative feeds should be prescribed, as per [SEL cow's milk protein allergy \(CMPA\) guideline](#).

### [Prescribing in lactose intolerance and how to identify lactose free medicines - SPS](#)

Resource suggests patients can be reassured lactose content (LC) of oral medicines is generally small (<2g/day) vs amount in food, particularly dairy, thus unless there is severe LC intolerance, it is unlikely LC in conventional oral solid-dosage form will cause severe GI symptoms.

## 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:** Joanne Hare: [joannehare@nhs.net](mailto:joannehare@nhs.net)