

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 18- 24 Nov

WAAW is to encourage best practices when using antimicrobials responsibly in order to prevent and control the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This year's theme will be "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together", which includes:

- Monday 20 November: 'Prevention' (including infection prevention, control measures and vaccination).
 - October's Infection Prevention and Control Week can be found [here](#).
- Tuesday 21 November: 'Antimicrobials in clinical practice' (promoting antibiotic short course length, empiric prescribing).
- Wednesday 22 November: 'Optimising diagnostics' (understanding established methods of detection of infection)

Action for healthcare professionals:

Please choose one of the four MS Teams backgrounds to use during WAAW, to raise awareness:

- [Do you know the optimal recommended antibiotic course](#)
- [Harder to treat infections false penicillin allergy](#)
- [Accurate results are appropriate when prescribing AMS](#)
- [Put antibiotic waste in the right place.](#)
- Promote the appropriate use of antibiotics by using national resources by the [UKHSA Resource Centre](#) and TARGET (Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools) [toolkit](#).
- Pledge to become an [Antibiotic Guardian](#) and take part in the X storm on Monday 20 November, using the hashtags: **#keepantibioticsworking #AntibioticResistance and #WAAW**.
- Add the following to your e-mail signature:
 - [Taking antibiotics when you don't need them puts you and your family at risk](#) and [Become an antibiotic guardian](#).

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Medicines

Elvanse® contains lisdexamfetamine, which is a prodrug of dexamfetamine and is usually given once a day - whereas dexamfetamine is given in divided doses. **Action for primary care:**

- Check the equivalent dose when switching ADHD medicines in accordance with the [SEL memo on ADHD medicine shortages](#)
- End course** on lisdexamfetamine when you switch.
- Document on both the consultation and drug entry why this has been stopped and what has been issued in its place.
- Community pharmacy should be notified this is an alternative.
- [SEL shared care agreement](#) advises a BP check after a dose adjustment (usually within 2 weeks of the change).

Reminder: Shortages for Tresiba® FlexTouch

Tresiba® 100units/ml FlexTouch PFS shortages were announced in June 2023, which led to the [SEL Tresiba® 100units/ml FlexTouch shortage memo](#) to guide practices in switching patients. Insulins are considered high-risk drugs and require careful adjustment and follow-up to ensure patients are not experiencing adverse effects.

Action for primary care:

- Use Arden's search (*2.15 Prescribing - CAS alerts v.2.80*) to identify patients on Tresiba® pre-filled pens.
- When switching be mindful that:
 - Xultophy® is combination product of insulin degludec with liraglutide
 - Injection volume needs to be adjusted if switch over to Tresiba 200unit/ml FlexTouch

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The Monthly Drug Tariff Watch

The Drug Tariff Watch is updated monthly to provide updates and recommendations on current high-impacted medicine shortages, price concessions and drug tariff prices.

[Serious Shortage Protocol \(SSP057\)](#) currently in place for **Estradot® 100mcg patches** has been extended to Friday 1st December 2023.

Drug Safety Update

Isotretinoin (Roaccutane ▼): Introduction of new safety measures

New measures and supporting materials have been developed to support the safe use of isotretinoin treatment:

Action for healthcare professionals:

- Use the **new** regulatory risk minimisation materials with **all patients**: [Acknowledgement of Risk Form](#), [Patient Reminder Card](#), and [Pharmacist Checklist](#).
- For patients under 18 years, there is now a requirement of 2 prescribers to agree that there is no other appropriate effective treatment before treatment is initiated.
- Healthcare professionals should refer to the [new guidance](#)
- Continue to follow [strict precautions on prescribing isotretinoin](#), including the Pregnancy Prevention Programme.

Valproate: dispense full packs of valproate-containing medicines

Following consultation, The Human Medicine Regulations 2012 has been amended to:

- Require dispensing of manufacturer's original full-pack of valproate-containing medicines.
- Enable pharmacists to supply up to 10% more than or less than the amount on prescription for valproate-containing medicines.

Action for community pharmacy:

- Ensure patients are dispensed the original full pack of valproate-containing medicines.
- For exceptional circumstances, ensure a risk assessment has taken place that states a patient requires a different packaging (e.g., monitored dose system) and that patients receive the patient information leaflet.

European Medicines Agency: New Safety information for Omega-3-acid ethyl esters

Studies revealed a dose-dependent increased risk of atrial fibrillation in patients with established cardiovascular diseases (CVD) or CVD risk factors who were treated with omega-3-acid ethyl esters compared to those given a placebo. Atrial fibrillation therefore will be included as a common side effect in the medicine's product information.

Action for healthcare professionals: Discontinue treatment permanently if the patient develops atrial fibrillation.

Wound Care Formularies Update

The **new Lymphoedema specialist Wound Care Formulary** provides suitable recommendations for specific indications. [Greenwich Combined Woundcare formulary](#) has been updated.

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Approved word for 'Self-care': Upload on GP Practice Web

The SEL self-care IMOC subgroup has developed approved wording for practices to consider including on your practice website. The aim is to set patient's expectations around self-care management in primary care and empower them with the confidence and information needed to take charge of their health. Please see below the set of approved wording to promote the use of over-the-counter medicines instead of "prescriptions".

Prescriptions for over-the-counter medicines

- You can buy over-the-counter medicines in pharmacies, supermarkets, and some high street shops.
- GPs, nurses, and pharmacists will not generally give you a prescription for over-the-counter medicines.
- Your local pharmacy offers help and clinical advice to manage minor health concerns. If your symptoms suggest it's more serious, they will help you get the care you need.

Please help the NHS to use resources sensibly. This advice is in line with national guidance from NHS England. Further information can be found [here](#).

CPCS ([local services](#)) is available and allows the practices to refer patients with minor illnesses for a same-day consultation with a community pharmacist. If you have any questions regarding the above, contact: Greenwich.Pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk.

NIHR Alert: Blood Pressure Treatment: the risks may be as great as the benefits in older people with frailty.

New research has found that for people aged ≥80 years and those with frailty, blood pressure medication increases the chance of being admitted to the hospital/dying due to a serious fall. It found:

- 1 serious fall would occur each year in every 33 people treated.
- 1 stroke or heart attack would be prevented for every 38 people treated in people aged 85+.

Action for primary care clinicians:

- Inform patients in medication reviews about the risks and benefits of blood pressure treatment, where patients may consider stopping treatment if the risks outweigh the benefits.

Pharmacy Blood Pressure Service Check Finder Tool

[Blood pressure check service finder](#) allows healthcare professionals and patients to find the nearest pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks and check eligibility. Pharmacy contractors offering the service should ensure their [NHS profile manager](#) is up to date.

Management of flu outbreaks with antiviral

The [briefing document](#) for the management of flu outbreaks and antivirals has been updated. Our providers can provide assessments and send a request to KCH to access antiviral therapy for both in and out-of-season by Greenwich Health for any residential settings and Greenwich Peninsula for care homes.

UKHSA Campaign: 'Get winter strong'

Though a total of 11.7 million people in England have had the flu vaccine, with 8.6 million taking up the COVID-19 booster, millions in vulnerable groups remain at risk. A new national marketing campaign has been launched. [More information can be found here](#).

Principles on remote prescribing: Non-Medical Prescriber

The [guidance](#) outlines the 10 high-level principles of good practice expected when consulting and/or prescribing remotely to:

- Safeguard patients accessing healthcare remotely.
- Work in a safe system
- Recognise limitations of remote prescribing.

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Ratified IMOC guidance

For SEL Joint formulary [click here](#)

- SEL COVID-19 medicines [outcomes & monitoring framework](#) for non-hospitalised patients and hospitalised patients in line with the transfer of commissioning responsibility for all COVID-19 treatments from NHSE to ICBs.
- Formulary inclusion of alimemazine as **RED** (*hospital prescribing*) for the management of dystonia associated with poor sleep and/or vomiting in paediatrics. Please refer to [Formulary recommendation 146](#) for further details.
- Information to support primary care in managing patients affected by the shortages of bumetanide 1mg and 5mg tablets [is now available via this link](#)
- "Supporting information for primary care for significant medicines shortages" folder can now be found [here](#).
- The [shared care guideline template](#) has been updated to optimise the process surrounding shared care agreements.
- The [shared care guideline for paliperidone](#) long-acting injection has been updated to incorporate the 6-monthly paliperidone preparation Byanli™.
- [IBD treatment pathway](#) has been updated to include NICE TA for [Upadacitinib \(TA90\)](#) and [Risankizumab \(TA 888\)](#) in Crohn's disease and [Upadacitinib \(TA856\)](#) in ulcerative colitis
- The IBD [outcomes and monitoring framework](#) has been updated to include new audits in relation to the second line biologics and locally commissioned elements of the pathway
- The criteria for use for [dual biologic therapy](#) and [dose-escalated](#) for Crohn's disease has been updated to include a 6-month assessment of disease activity to determine the continuation of treatment

New and updated guidelines

- [NICE \(NG237\) Suspected acute respiratory infections \(ARI\) in over 16s](#) covers the initial management of any ARI infections with symptoms and signs at first remote or in-person contact with NHS services.
- [NICE \(NG236\) Stroke rehabilitation in adults](#): The delivery of rehabilitation in hospitals and communities after stroke over 16 and assessing common problems linked to stroke.
- [NICE \(CG98\) Jaundice in newborn babies under 28 days– looking for jaundice](#) was updated to highlight that skin pigmentation changes may be harder to see in darker skin and that urine culture only be considered if clinical suspicion of urinary tract infection in [managing prolonged jaundice](#).
- [NICE \(NG145\) Thyroid disease: Assessment and management](#) Included that high consumption of biotin from dietary supplements can affect the results of thyroid function tests.
- [NG12](#), [NG127](#), [NG98](#), [CG148](#), [CG122](#) were updated in line with [NHS England's standard for faster diagnosis of cancer](#).

Specialist Pharmacy Service

- [Managing the risks of using liquid oral phenobarbital](#)
- [Consider drug interactions with smoking](#) as smoking can induce liver enzymes, affecting drug metabolism, thus, it is important to [manage specific interactions with smoking](#).
- [Safety in breastfeeding](#) has been updated to include:
 - [Using emergency contraception during breastfeeding](#):
 - [Giving vaccines during breastfeeding](#)
 - [Managing COVID-19 and breastfeeding](#)
 - [Using laxatives during breastfeeding](#)

Contact Details

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