

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### EXTENDED Virtual Anticoagulation Clinics – Primary Care & Lewisham and Greenwich Trusts (LGT)

Due to the popularity of the joint virtual clinics, they have been extended until the end of **October**. Primary care clinicians will be able to:

- Discuss patient assessment and case studies with the anticoagulation pharmacist in initiating and switching patients to Edoxaban from warfarin or other direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs).
- Book another session to discuss more complex patients' cases if you have previously attended one of these virtual clinics.

The specialist pharmacists have successfully helped practices initiating DOACs in complex patients and those who have previously declined. This opportunity will further support clinicians in the delivery of contractual work for 2023-24.

#### Action for primary care clinician:

- Please see **Attachments 1-2** for information on the virtual clinics and Greenwich process flowchart respectively.

### Monthly Drug Tariff Watch

The Drug Tariff Watch (**Attachment 3**) is updated monthly to provide updates and recommendations on current medicine shortages, price concessions and drug tariff prices.

**Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP058)** currently in place for **Jext® 300micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1000) solution for injection auto-injector pen** has been extended to 20 October 2023.

**Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP056)** currently in place for **Utrogestan® 100mg capsules** has been extended to 29 September 2023.

**Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP057)** currently in place for **Estradot® 100mcg patches** has been extended to 13 October 2023.

For prescriptions (NHS or private) requesting:	Supply permitted under SSP:
Jext® 300micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1000) solution for injection auto-injector pen	EpiPen® 300micrograms/0.3 ml (1 in 1000) solution for injection autoinjector pen
Utrogestan® 100mg capsules x ANY QUANTITY	<b>REDUCED QUANTITY IN LINE WITH SSP</b>
Estradot® 100micrograms/2 4hours patches	Evorel® 100 patches <b>OR</b> Estraderm® MX 100 patches

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### Drug Safety Update

#### Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: Reminder of risk of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects.

Despite 2019 guidelines restricting the use of fluoroquinolones, a **recent study** showed continued prescribing patterns and reports of side effects, warranting increased awareness among healthcare professionals.

#### Actions for healthcare professionals:

- **Refrain** from prescribing for mild to moderate & self-limiting infections, unless there is **no** suitable alternatives.
- **Exercise caution** when prescribing to individuals over 60 years old or with renal impairment as they are at high risk of tendon injury.
- **Avoid co-prescribing with corticosteroids** as this can exacerbate tendinitis and tendon rupture.
- **Discontinue** treatment at the first signs of serious adverse reactions e.g., tendon pain or inflammation.

#### Methotrexate: advise patients to take precautions in the sun to avoid photosensitivity reactions

Patients taking methotrexate should be advised to take precautions to protect their skin from the sun, as photosensitivity reactions can occur, and may lead to sunburn-like rashes, blistering, and swelling.

#### Actions for Healthcare Professionals:

- **Advise** patients on sun protection measures to reduce risk of photosensitivity reactions, including phototoxicity, which can occur as side effects for both low-dose & high-dose methotrexate treatment due to sun exposure.

#### Valproate: Risks in children of men taking valproate

A re-analysis of a retrospective study suggested an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children of men who took valproate three months before conception.

#### Actions for healthcare professionals:

- Advise patients not to stop taking valproate **without specialist advice** - Ensure patients are undertaking annual risk assessments/ specialist reviews.
- Female patients should follow strict precautions regarding valproate use during pregnancy (PPP).
- Prescribers **must evaluate** individual circumstances, and alternatives considered, assess pregnancy potential, ensure patient understanding of risks and contraceptive measures.

#### Service specifications: fertility preservation and restoration

These cover service users with ovarian and testicular tissue at high/very high risk of infertility & endocrine failure who cannot store mature eggs/sperm, and fertility & endocrine restoration for users with cryopreserved ovarian tissue who are in premature ovarian insufficiency.

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### Role of Inclisiran in Lipid Management

Inclisiran is a [NICE-recommended](#) injectable lipid-lowering therapy that provides an effective intervention to lower lipids for secondary prevention in patients, who have not had their lipids effectively lowered using statins (LDL>2.6mmol/L) or a combination of statins and ezetimibe. **Attachment 4** explores the evidence pertaining to the benefits of Inclisiran use in such patients to support cardiovascular disease prevention. Inclisiran is **Amber 1** (*treatment can be initiated in primary care after a recommendation from an appropriate specialist*) on the [SEL Joint Formulary](#).

#### Actions for healthcare professionals:

- Please refer to [SEL Lipid Management pathway for SEL process for Inclisiran initiation](#).
- Please use the Inclisiran initiation checklist to review patient eligibility. This can be found on the SEL IMOC website, under [CVD guidance: Lipid – Inclisiran initiation checklist](#).

### Medicines and Falls

This document provides guidance on how to undertake medication reviews for individuals at risk of falls. It emphasizes:

- The importance of identifying and deprescribing medications linked to falls & fractures.
- The complexity of medication review in older adults with multiple health issues, highlighting the need to carefully balance the risks and benefits of various treatments.
- Screening tools such as [STOPPFall](#) to identify medicines that can increase the risk of falls in older adults.

### NHS campaign to identify early signs of life-threatening constipation in people with learning disabilities (LD).

Constipation has been identified as one of the top 10 long-term conditions among patients with LD who passed away in 2020.

This campaign [provides resources](#) to raise awareness about constipation to improve patients' quality of life.

### Routine childhood immunisation schedule update

The childhood schedule was revised in September 2023 to include changes to the human papillomavirus (HPV). The new routine immunisation schedule can be [found here](#).

### Increasing flu immunisation in preschool children

The UKHSA has issued guidance for GP practices to enhance flu immunization among preschool children aged 2 and 3, starting from August 31st. It emphasizes the importance of advanced preparation and recommends assigning a staff member to oversee the vaccination programme for optimal results.

### Hormonal-replacement therapy Pre-payment certificate (HRT PPC): DHSC Updated Guidance

#### key changes:

- HRT medication must be on a separate prescription to other non-HRT items.
- Electronic repeat dispensing (eRD) prescriptions with HRT on them can be supplied to patients, noting that future eRD prescription must be separated.
- PPC can be backdated up to one month.

### Revised SPCs

**Losec® (Omeprazole) capsules** – Acute tubulointerstitial nephritis has been added as a rare potential adverse effect to treatment.

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### Ratified IMOC guidance

- The shared care guideline for [the treatment of autoimmune hepatitis \(AIH\), rheumatic diseases and inflammatory bowel disease in paediatrics](#) has been updated, with the addition of azathioprine for the management of AIH.
- [Clinical Effectiveness South East London \(CESEL\) Chronic Kidney Disease \(CKD\) guide](#) has been updated to include finerenone for treating CKD in type 2 diabetes in line with [NICE Technology Appraisal 877](#). Finerenone is categorised as **Amber 2** (*specialist initiation followed by transfer of care after 6 months*) as per [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#).
- [Formulary recommendation 097-](#) Cariprazine hydrochloride (Reagila™) for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults has been updated to remove the one-year time-limited approval.

### New and updated guidelines

- [NICE NG233: Otitis Media with effusion in under 12s](#) – New guideline covers identifying and managing otitis media with effusion (OME), known as 'glue ear', in children under 12 years. In March 2022, [NICE NG91](#) set out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for acute otitis media, aiming to limit antibiotic use & reduce antimicrobial resistance. Acute otitis media can be caused by viruses or bacteria. It lasts for about a week, and most children get better in 3 days without antibiotics. Serious complications are rare. NICE reviewed the evidence and added a recommendation on eardrops containing an anaesthetic and an analgesic.
- [NICE NG12: Suspected cancer: recognition and referral](#) - Updates include new recommendations in line with the [new NICE diagnostics guidance \(DG56\)](#) on quantitative faecal immunochemical testing, to guide the colorectal cancer pathway referral in primary care.
- [NICE NG126: Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage: diagnosis and initial management](#) – Updates include new recommendations on medical management of miscarriage.
- [NICE NG158- New visual summary](#) published on recommendations for venous thromboembolism.

### Clinical knowledge summaries

- [Balanitis](#)- Treatment for a suspected severe bacterial infection has changed in line with the updated European consensus publication on balanoposthitis.

### Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) resources

- [Considerations when switching between solid doses and liquids](#)
- [Specific medicine switches for solid dose and liquid formulations](#)
- [Managing pharmaceutical waste](#)
- [Identifying types of pharmaceutical waste and disposable containers](#)
- [Safety in breastfeeding](#) – now updated to include [treating opioid dependence](#) during breastfeeding.

## Contact Details

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