

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Travel Vaccines (vaccines administered exclusively for the purposes of travel)

The following vaccines may still be administered on the NHS exclusively for the purposes of travel, if clinically appropriate:

- Cholera
- Hepatitis A
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio
- Typhoid

The following vaccinations which should not be prescribed on the NHS exclusively for the purposes of travel:

- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis ACWY
- Tick-borne encephalitis
- BCG
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Yellow Fever
- Rabies

There are many situations where the vaccines listed above are provided free on the NHS as outlined in 'Immunisation against infectious diseases' (The Green Book).

Action: Travel vaccines should continue to be recommended for travel, but the individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination. Please see **Attachments 1-4** for more information on travel vaccines, patient information leaflet and template text message respectively to support patient conversation.

Referral For Tier 3 Weight Management Service

9 referrals for Greenwich were rejected by The Bariatric Consultancy for Tier 3 weight management service last week due to the patients do not meet the criteria for assessment for Saxenda®. This can be for any of the following reasons:

- Has HbA1c < 42-47mmol/mol (not prediabetes)
- Had post gastric bypass or sleeve - either privately or on the NHS
- With type 1 or type 2 diabetes – GP to refer via Diabetes weight management pathway
- Patients wish to have Wegovy® (Semaglutide) – currently only Saxenda® (Liraglutide) is available through the NHS; a potential 2-year GP pilot scheme may be available for Wegovy®.
- The blood tests results were not up to date (last 1-3 months) bloods (to be sent with the referral).

Action: Ensure patient summary and 1-3 months blood tests are included in the updated DXS referral form, which now Saxenda® criteria:

- Full blood count
- Liver function test
- Thyroid Function tests
- U&Es and renal functions
- HbA1c

Monthly Drug Tariff Watch

The Drug Tariff Watch (**Attachment 5**) is updated monthly to provide information and recommendations on current medicine shortages, serious shortages protocols, prices concessions and drug tariff prices.

NEW HRT products added to pre-payment certificate (HRT PPC) medicine list from June 2023

DHSC's updated HRT medicine list now includes **Tibolone 2.5mg tablets (Livial®)** and **Prasterone 6.5mg pessaries (Intrarosa®)** that are covered by HRT PPC. For more information, please see Community Pharmacy England's [HRT medicine list](#).

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Drug Safety Update

Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs): paediatric formulations; reminder of dose adjustments in patients with renal impairment.

Prescribers should ensure all patients on DOAC with renal impairment receive the appropriate dose and monitor renal function during treatment in line with [South-East London guidance](#). New updated guidance will be releasing soon. Rivaroxaban oral granules for oral suspension for paediatric use is for hospital prescribing only.

Febuxostat: updated advice for the treatment of patients with a history of major cardiovascular disease (CVD)

Febuxostat was found to be non-inferior to allopurinol therapy with respect to primary CVD end point. Long-term use febuxostat was not associated with increased risk of death/CVD death compared to allopurinol.

Action:

- Allopurinol remains first-line treatment for people with gout who have major CVD as per [Gout NICE Guidelines](#);
- Febuxostat treatment in patients with pre-existing major CVD disease should be exercised cautiously, particularly in patients with evidence of high urate crystals and tophi burden or those initiating urate lowering therapy.
- Febuxostat dose should be titrated to minimise gout flares and inflammation.

NEW Greenwich Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2023-2026

The PNA purpose is to support local commissioners and NHS England in services that can be delivered to meet the future identified needs of the Greenwich population.

KEY FINDINGS

- The Greenwich population is projected to increase by 3.1% by 2026, with the largest to be seen in Peninsula and Woolwich Riverside wards.
- Greenwich has higher rates of homelessness, unemployment, children of low-income families than England overall.
- High health-risk behaviors were identified such as excess weight in reception and year 6 children, sexually transmitted infections, and teenage conceptions.
- Greenwich has the 7th highest emergency hospital admissions for COPD in England.

NEW SEL Webinar- Is it Non-IgE Cow's Milk Allergy?

This webinar will cover common infant conditions, such as eczema, reflux, constipation, and colic, to consider, as well as the importance of providing adequate breastfeeding support, before considering non-IgE cow's milk allergy. To attend the webinar on 14th July 2023, 13:30-14:30, [please click here](#).

QIPP workplan 23/24, baseline graphs and resources

These can now be accessed on the [SEL website](#) under [Greenwich Medicine Optimisation Team](#).

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Woundcare Update

NEW Greenwich Combined Woundcare Formulary

A single formulary has replaced the district nurse formulary, care home formulary and primary care formulary. Specialist formulary and integrate wound care pathway have remained the same, which can be accessed under [Prescribing Guidance](#).

NEW Tissue Type Chart

A [tissue type chart](#) is introduced to support the new combined formulary to assist clinicians identifying the most appropriate formulary dressings to be used during consultation with patients with wound care needs.

Product changes on AQUACEL®

Some of the following AQUACEL® Ag products have been withdrawn from the Drug Tariff on 31st Dec 2022.

Action: Clinicians are advised to issue prescription for the suggested replacement accordingly.

| Discontinued products | Replace with: |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| AQUACEL® Ag | AQUACEL® Ag + Extra |
| AQUACEL® Ag Ribbon | AQUACEL® Ag+ Ribbon |
| AQUACEL® Ag Extra | AQUACEL® Ag + Extra |

Re-categorization of Omega-3 under SEL Lipid Pathway

Omega-3 has been re-categorized as **AMBER 2** (specialist initiation followed by maintenance prescribing in primary care) under the [SEL Lipid Management Pathway](#), with the following criteria:

- Persistent Triglycerides (TG) ≥ 10 to < 20 mmol/L after potential secondary causes of hypertriglyceridaemia management failed to reduce TG; and
- In selected patients (e.g. pancreatitis risk) omega-3 fatty acids may be initiated by lipid specialists for control of TG.

Action: For patients with a CVD history, fasting TG > 1.7 mmol/L (or non-fasting TG > 2.1 mmol/L) and LDL-C 1.04 to 2.6 mmol/L, where cardiovascular, diabetes and lipid specialists may consider adding icosapent ethyl ▼ to high-intensity statin therapy as an alternative to Omega-3.

Decision support tool: bipolar disorder – is valproate the right treatment for me?

This decision aid is to share with patients who could become pregnant between aged 12-55, considering, or taking valproate for bipolar disorder.

Decision support tool: is valproate the right epilepsy treatment for me?

This decision aid is to share with patients who could become pregnant between aged 12-55, considering, or taking valproate for epilepsy.

Decision support tool: making a decision about recurrent tonsillitis in children and adults.

This decision support tool contains information about recurrent tonsillitis and the treatments available for patients.

NHS rolls out order-to-home hepatitis C self-test kit

Self-testing kits are available online as part of NHS Hepatitis C Elimination Programme to reach people who may not be engaged with drug and alcohol support, prison and probation services, and those previously exposed to the virus.

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Antibiotics summary guidance and diagnostic tools for infectious diseases updated on February 2023

- BNF Publications hosts the [summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance](#) - managing common infections on behalf of NICE and PHE as an interim measure.
- RCGP have a series of [quick reference tools for diagnosis of infectious diseases](#) linked to national guidance.

PSNC to become Community Pharmacy England

The new branding which changed from 30 May 2023 is designed to be more impactful, authoritative and help better represent community pharmacy.

Adrenaline Auto-injectors (AAs) safety campaign

This provided information for patients and healthcare professionals to understand the importance of AAs as a potential life-saving medicines. It provides infographics and animation on how to correct use AAs during anaphylaxis.

Revised SPC

- **Viagra® (Sildenafil) 100mg film-coated tablets:** Addition of single dose of sildenafil in patients treated with sacubitril/valsartan was associated with a significant greater blood pressure reduction than sacubitril/valsartan alone.

Adult breathlessness pathway (pre-diagnosis): Diagnostic Pathway Support Tool

This tool aims to align clinical practice in primary care with guideline recommendations to provide high-quality care, optimise patient outcomes and reduce variation for patients with chronic breathlessness.

Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) resources

Guidance:

- **Using clopidogrel with proton pump inhibitors (PPIs)** – Although PPI are often co-prescribed with clopidogrel to reduce gastrointestinal effects (e.g. bleeding, dyspepsia) some PPIs can reduce the plasma levels of clopidogrel due to enzyme inhibition.

Resources:

- **Safety in breastfeeding** has been updated to include [strong opioids](#), [calcium-channel blockers](#), [beta-blockers](#) and [angiotensin-II receptor antagonists](#) in breastfeeding.

PRIMARY CARE

NEW name for Greenwich Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service Provider – VIA

WDP (Westminster Drug Project) has ceased from 5th June and are now known as VIA. VIA will provide alcohol and drug treatment services in Greenwich, funded through the Public Health Grant. The new website can be now has an [online referral form](#) embedded on the site that healthcare professionals can make a referral on behalf of patients or patients can self-refer themselves.

Contact Details

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