

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Update on QIPP 2021-2022 Payment

To reduce bureaucratic burdens in general practice to free up valuable time for patient care while recovering from COVID, practices will receive QIPP 2020-2021 payment directly without requirement to submit invoices. This was directly paid into practices' account in January. Achievement and reimbursement of quality improvement projects were based on the submission on completed clinical audits.

The Monthly Drug Tariff Watch: Current Serious Shortages and Price Changes

The Drug Tariff Watch (**Attachment 1**) is updated monthly to provide information and recommendations on current serious shortages, prices concessions and drug tariff prices.

- **Serious Shortages Protocol (SSP):** pharmacy contractors can use their professional skill and judgement to substitute the patient's prescribed order for the active SSP.
- **Medicines supply issue:** consider recommendation provided for alternative.
- **Price concession:** please contact your prescribing advisor for advice for items that cannot be dispensed due to significant cost difference.

Drug Safety Update

Class 2 Medicine Recall: Teva UK Limited, Levothyroxine 12.5microgram tablets

Teva UK Limited is recalling batch (no. 214052) Levothyroxine 12.5microgram tablets in response to a lower than required assay result discovered during routine stability testing.

Action for community pharmacies:

To stop supplying the above batch, quarantine all remaining stock and return it to your supplier using their approved process.

Advice for clinicians: Advise patients should continue to take the medicine from this batch as prescribed. They should seek medical attention if they experience insufficient control of symptoms or an adverse reaction.

Class 2 Medicine Recall: UCB Pharma Limited, Dioctyl® (docusate sodium) 100mg capsules

UCB Pharma Limited is recalling batch (no. 322983D) of Dioctyl® 100mg capsules as a precautionary measure due to the presence of a foreign capsule found in a sealed pack.

Action for community pharmacies: To stop supplying the above batch, quarantine all remaining stock and return it to your supplier using their approved process.

Advice for clinicians: advise patients to check for any foreign capsule different in appearance to Dioctyl® capsules in their package; do not consume the foreign capsule but return to community pharmacy.

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Drug Safety Update continued

Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration Systems (ePMAS): Report incidents on Yellow Card

The MHRA asks healthcare professionals to be vigilant to adverse incidents that can occur with ePMAS, including medical devices that may lead to patient harm and to report them to MHRA on the Yellow Card scheme.

London Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM)

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Access

NICE guidance for adults with T1DM (**NG17**) changed in 2022 to include access to CGM technologies for all adults living with type 1 diabetes. [The pan-London implementation document](#) aims to support NG17 guideline, ensuring equitable access for all groups and considering clinical characteristics that may be important for the safety and effectiveness of CGM devices. Please refer to the following for the quantity of sensor, transmitter and SMBG required for each device.

- [London Type 1 diabetes CGM access - device list](#)
- [London Type 1 diabetes CGM access - flowchart](#)

More SEL guidance will follow.

Revised Biosimilar Guidance Update

NHS England has produced a [guide](#) to provide key information about the safe, effective, and consistent use of all biological medicines. MHRA released an updated [Guidance on the licensing of biosimilar products](#) that highlights biosimilar products are interchangeable with their reference product (RP) or another biosimilar medicine to the same RP.

Action for clinicians:

Any decision to move to a biosimilar medicine e.g. biosimilar insulin, should first be made on clinical judgement for individual patients and based on overall value proposition offered by the medicine.

New regulations to accompany the introduction of HRT prepayment certificates (HRT PPCs)

From 1st April 2023, patients who usually pay for their HRT prescriptions will be able to purchase an annual HRT PPC for the cost of two single prescription charges (currently £18.70) for 12 months, can be used against any listed HRT prescription item(s) licensed for the treatment of menopause. As a consequence of its limited scope, a patient with an HRT PPC will continue to pay the prescription charge for any other (non-HRT) medicines (unless another exemption reason applies).

Action for prescribers: ensure all HRT items are prescribed on separate prescriptions so that prescription can be processed as "exempt" and "paid" within the NHS prescription processing and pricing systems separately.

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Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) DES IIF indicator for Edoxaban in Atrial Fibrillation (AF)

There has been an increase in activity this month concerning this indicator across SEL. SEL aims for all appropriate patients with AF to be safely anticoagulated to protect them from stroke and that most patients are started on Edoxaban for AF at initiation if clinically appropriate. Greenwich LES for DOAC initiation remains available for practices to claim for additional capacity to undertake initiation/switch.

Action for clinicians:

- Please refer to [SEL guidance on safe-switching of patients on DOAC for non-valvular AF to Edoxaban](#).
- Clinicians can use the [DOAC practice template](#) to support anticoagulation reviews and ensure all patient factors have been taken into account before considering DOAC change or referrals. All initiation/switching will require up to date baseline bloods- renal profile, liver function, full blood count and body weight.
- Clinicians should **only** be using the Anticoagulation (warfarin, DOAC) template (v16.7) (Ardens). Please disregard any others.
- For any queries and concerns, please contact Rachel.howatson@selondonics.nhs.uk, senior CVD pharmacist for SEL or your prescribing advisor.

Semaglutide: Managing Overweight and Obesity Update

NICE has published an updated technical appraisal (TA) guidance (TA875) on [Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity](#). Semaglutide injection is available as:

- Ozempic®: licensed for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM). Currently, there is stock shortages and restriction to start on new patients with T2DM to maintain supply chain.
- Wegovy®: not currently available from pharmacy wholesaler to order yet.

SEL and Tier 2/3 Weight Management Service are working to support equitable implementation of the updated NICE guidelines. SEL has 90 calendar days to make funding and ensure stock are available for a drug or treatment recommended by NICE. Implementation advice for general practice, tier 3 weight management service and people living with overweight/obesity, will be circulated as soon as it is agreed by the SEL team.

NEW Self-Care Section on SEL Joint Medicines Formulary

The new self-care section provides resources on treatments of minor or self-limiting conditions that should generally be through purchase of over-the-counter medication that is listed through community pharmacies. [To access this, please click here.](#)

[Guidelines for Malaria Prevention in Travellers from the UK \(last updated Feb 2023\)](#)

The latest guidelines for malaria prevention in travellers from the UK can be access from the [link](#) here.

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Respiratory sustainability resources

Please see **Attachment 2 resource pack** for ongoing support with respiratory sustainability and contractual work. This includes the joint clinics with Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) respiratory specialist pharmacists.

- Information on Greener practice for high quality and low carbon asthma care resources [can be found here](#).
- For review of clinical studies on the use of Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs) among patients with asthma & COPD, [please click here](#).

Lloyds Pharmacies closing in Greenwich April 2023

NHS England has received notice for the following Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd pharmacies that will cease to provide pharmaceutical services on 22nd April 2023 and will be removed from the pharmaceutical list for the area of Greenwich Health and Wellbeing Board with effect from that date:

- Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd (FGX36) Sainsburys Superstore, 7-11 Gallions Road, Greenwich, London SE7 7FA
- Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd (FY041) Sainsburys Superstore, 1A Philpot Path, Eltham SE9 5DL

Action for practices: please advise your patients of the pharmacy ceasing the services and nominate another local pharmacy for the electronic prescription service.

Specialist Pharmacy (SPS) resources

The SPS has created the following guidance and resources for the information of clinicians.

Guidance:

- [Establishing whether a person needs to switch their antidepressant](#). This series provides advice on how to choose an antidepressant based on patient's prior response, side effects, new contraindications, current symptoms which may make an antidepressant switch necessary.
- [Contraception with enzyme-inducing medicines](#): This provides advice on how the effectiveness of certain contraceptives can be reduced by concomitant use with enzyme-inducing medicines.

Resources:

- [Travel health: useful resources to support answering questions](#): Supports clinicians in answering travel-related questions about medication.
- [Prescribing available Hormone Replacement Therapy \(HRT\)](#): Lists available and affected HRT products, which is updated regularly.
- [Using folic acid with methotrexate \(MTX\) in rheumatoid arthritis \(RA\)](#): Provides advice to appropriate dosing for folic acid used to reduce MTX associated adverse effects in people with RA.

Contact Details

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