

## MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

### 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 changes in 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.

### Alternative Dioralyte® oral rehydration solutions in Neonatal and Paediatric Patients

Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) have published guidance on different Dioralyte® alternatives in these patients, such as Dioralyte Relief sachets, O.R.S Hydration tablets and St Mark's solution that can be considered.

### Midazolam Prescribing in Primary Care

Midazolam is available in several licensed and unlicensed formulations and strength. However, presentation on clinical system may differ for buccal and oromucosal. Formulation choice is dependent on indication of use.

**Action:** Clinicians to confirm the indication and route of administration prior to prescribing midazolam. Please see **Attachment 2** for SEL Formulary recommendations.

### Drug Safety Update

#### Topical Testosterone (Testogel): Risk of harm to children following accidental exposure

Premature puberty and genital enlargement have been reported in children who were either in close physical contact with an adult using topical testosterone or repeatedly exposed to this medication.

Clinicians are asked to advise patients to:

- Wash their hands after application of topical testosterone.
- Cover application site with clothing once the product has dried.
- Wash the application site before physical contact with another person.

### South-East London Training Hub- Free courses for Non-Medical Prescribers (NMP)

There is free training available, which may be useful for NMP. To access them, [please click here](#).

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### Quality improvement (QI) projects of Medicine Optimisation Workplan 21/22 key recommendation

Data analysis of practices submissions of the MO QI projects submitted by GP practices in Greenwich for the 21/22 financial year highlighted the following key actions to ensure that patient safety and quality of care are maintained.

#### High risk steroid card recommendations:

- Review patients on steroid therapy every 6-12 months, and where appropriate, refer patients to specialist to assess ongoing need of steroid treatment.
- Educate patients on risks associated with steroid therapy.
- Prescribers are advised to take into consideration all routes of steroid administration and calculate the total daily dose of steroid to check patient eligibility for the steroid card. More information [can be found here](#).
- Ardens has a Clinical Safety Protocol Document template, which includes a Steroid Emergency Card (Adult) for the patient to print and carry with them. To access the document template, please follow instructions via this [link](#).

#### End of Life (EoL) polypharmacy review recommendation:

- Continue to proactively discuss deprescribing with EoL patients when carrying out palliative care review. Training available via [PrescQIPP Masterclasses](#)

#### Optimisation of cholesterol management for secondary prevention (in primary care) recommendations:

- Clinicians to proactively initiate or optimise statin to high intensity for secondary prevention.
- To use [intolerance pathway and shared decision-making tools to support adherence](#).

### Specialist Pharmacy (SPS) Resources

The SPS has created the following resources for the information of clinicians:

- [Switching between Gabapentin and Pregabalin for neuropathic pain](#) – provides guidance on how to safely switch between gabapentinoids in adults.
- [Using Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor \(SSRI\) antidepressants during breastfeeding](#) – Paroxetine and Sertraline are the SSRIs of choice.
- [Using Tricyclic Antidepressants \(TCA\) during breastfeeding](#)- Imipramine and nortriptyline are the TCAs of choice.
- [Using codeine, dihydrocodeine or tramadol during breastfeeding](#) – Tramadol and dihydrocodeine can be used while breastfeeding for pain control. Codeine should not be used.
- [Using Insulins during breastfeeding](#) – Guidance on continuing/ initiating insulins in breastfeeding mothers.

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### Ratified IMOC guidance

#### NEW

- **Formulary inclusion** of nystatin oral suspension BP as **Amber 1** in the treatment and prevention of early voice prosthesis failure due to candida infection. Please refer to the [formulary recommendation](#) and [information sheet](#) to support the prescribing of nystatin in this area.
- **Formulary inclusion** of rituximab intravenous injection as **Red** for the treatment of autoimmune haemolytic anaemia in adults. Please refer to the [formulary recommendation](#) for further details.
- **Formulary inclusion** of canagliflozin as **Green** for the management of diabetic kidney disease. Please refer to the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) and [Clinical Effectiveness South East London \(CESEL\) chronic kidney disease \(CKD\) guide](#) for treatment guidance.
- **Guidance for primary care** on the identification and management of patients at risk of adrenal insufficiency and [patient information leaflet](#) has been developed to support implementation of the [National Patient Safety Alert](#).

#### UPDATED PATHWAYS

- The [SEL Lipid Management Pathways](#) have been updated through the Cardiovascular (CVD) sub-group of the SEL IMOC. Updates include the use of icosapent ethyl with statin therapy in line with NICE for reducing the risk of CVD events in people with raised triglycerides.
- The [SEL Inflammatory Bowel Disease \(IBD\) treatment pathways](#) have been updated through the IBD sub-group of the SEL IMOC. Updates include the inclusion of filgotinib and ozanimod (both **Red**) in line with NICE as a second line biologic option for the management of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis.
- The [SEL Rheumatoid Arthritis pathway](#) has been updated through the Rheumatology sub-group of the SEL IMOC. Minor updates were made to the pathway.
- The [SEL Seronegative Spondyloarthropathy pathway](#) has been updated through the Rheumatology sub-group of the SEL IMOC. Updates include the use of upadacitinib for ankylosing spondylitis and risankizumab for psoriatic arthritis as a second line option in line with NICE (both **Red**).

#### MEDICINE RE-CATEGORISATION

- Dapagliflozin has been re-categorised from **Red** to **Green** for the management of CKD following development of the CESEL CKD Guide. Please refer to the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) and [CESEL CKD guide](#).
- [Nifedipine immediate release capsules](#) and [glyceryl trinitrate spray](#) has been re-categorised from **Red** to **Amber 2** for the management of autonomic dysreflexia.
- [Formulary recommendation 040](#) - dexamfetamine tablets for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults and [formulary recommendation 041](#) – lisdexamfetamine dimesylate (Elvanse Adult®) capsules for ADHD in adults has been updated to reflect the place in therapy in line with [NICE guidance](#) and the existing [local shared care guideline](#).

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### NEW NICE guidelines

- **NG230: Thyroid cancer: Assessment and management**- This guideline covers diagnosis and management of thyroid cancer in people aged 16 and over.
- **NG231: Barrett's Oesophagus and Stage 1 Oesophageal Adenocarcinoma: Monitoring and Management**- This guideline covers the monitoring, treatment, and follow-up for adults with Barrett's oesophagus and stage 1 oesophageal adenocarcinoma.

#### Revised SPC

- **Seroxat® (Paroxetine)**- Caution for patients with a (family) history of QT prolongation (QTP) or on anti-arrhythmic drugs which can implicate QTP.
- **Jardiance® (Empagliflozin)**: It should not be used in patients taking empagliflozin and insulin due to an increased risk of ketoacidosis occurrence in patients.

#### Interface queries around medicines

For any interface prescribing queries in Greenwich, please email: [Greenwich.Pharmacy@selondonics.nh.uk](mailto:Greenwich.Pharmacy@selondonics.nh.uk). For any Lewisham and Greenwich Trust (LGT) related interface prescribing queries, please copy in: [lg.qe-medinfo@nhs.net](mailto:lg.qe-medinfo@nhs.net)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Role of General Practice (GP) teams in supporting patient access to covid-19 treatments

NHS England have produced to the [NHS fact sheet](#) to support practice teams respond to queries from patients on treatments for COVID-19. Identified patients can be referred for assessment for antivirals by emailing [cmdureferral@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:cmdureferral@gstt.nhs.uk) via e-RS and selecting:

- **Priority:** Urgent / Routine
- **Specialty:** Infectious Diseases
- **Clinic Type:** Not Otherwise Specified
- **Service Name:** COVID-19 Neutralising Monoclonal Antibodies (nMABs) Delivery Unit (CMDU)- Guy's & ST Thomas's - RJ1\*

#### Greenwich Mental Health Hub Update

Please see **Attachment 3** for updated information on the Greenwich Mental Hub.

#### Greenwich Community Respiratory Diagnostic (Lung Function) Hub

The community based diagnostic hub will provide diagnostic spirometry by Respirecare for 6 months, commencing on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. For more information on the service, please see **Attachment 4- 5**.

## Contact Details

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