

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Greenwich Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) Winter Scheme

This service continues to be available until 30th April 2024. GP reception and clinical teams are encouraged to continue creating CPCS referrals via local services button on EMIS system for common winter illnesses, providing patients with professional health care advice and over-the-counter medicines, including 4-month supply of vitamin D supplements free of charge from participating pharmacies. Please see attachment X for a list of pharmacies participating in this local winter scheme.

Action: Continue creating CPCS referrals via local services button on EMIS system for common winter illnesses.

Advanced Service: Pharmacy First Service

The Pharmacy First Service involves a consultation with a pharmacist, where appropriate, for 7 common conditions. Patients self-referring as a 'walk-in' to the pharmacy or referred by GPs via local services button on EMIS system. Patients may be supplied with a prescription-only treatment under a patient group direction (PGD) and/or given advice.

- [New FAQs and resources](#) have been added to the website after implementation of the Pharmacy First Service.
- More information can be found here: [Pharmacy First – information for general practice fact sheet](#).
- [Pharmacy First Webinar on 27/2/2024 at 1pm – register here](#).

The London Care Record (LCR) in Community Pharmacies

The London Care Record is a digital shared care record solution, which enables health and care staff to have one secure view of a person's relevant health and care information. Formerly known as "Connect Care". Roll out of the LCR for community pharmacy will begin shortly.

Action: For community pharmacies to express interest in the first phase of this roll out and determine the necessary IT requirements, please complete the pharmacy digital maturity and technology assessment via MS forms:

<https://forms.office.com/e/94qpA7GdfH>

Use of Nefopam for Chronic Pain

Nefopam use is associated with adverse drug reactions (such as urinary retention) and toxicity in overdose. Considered if potential benefits outweigh risk of adverse effects, regular. Stop treatment if no benefit is seen with short term use.

Action for healthcare professionals: Regular reviews and stop nefopam if ineffective. It is not recommended for initiation in primary care. Please refer to [SEL Management of Adult Non-Cancer Chronic Pain](#) for more information.

MHRA Updates

- [MHRA update on new study on risk in children born to men taking valproate](#)
- [Aripiprazole \(Abilify\): reminder on known risk of gambling disorder](#).
- [Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: must now only be prescribed when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate](#).
- [Codeine linctus to be reclassified to a prescription-only medicine because of risk of abuse and addiction](#).

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Risks with Oral Methotrexate

Methotrexate is given daily for some cancers but **weekly for conditions such as psoriasis and arthritis**. A Serious Incident affecting a patient with rheumatoid arthritis had methotrexate tablets labelled as "15mg to be taken weekly". The care giver was confused with labelling and the patient was administered the methotrexate on a daily basis, resulting in harm.

Action: Please see the [additional document](#) for further information and actions for clinicians.

Prescribing During Breastfeeding

Specialist Pharmaceutical Service (SPS) has [training and guidance](#) to help decision making about the use of medicines in breastfeeding. It is important to complete an [individual risk assessment](#) for your patient and to apply the [principles of prescribing in breastfeeding](#) when looking at the available information and making treatment decisions.

These recommendations apply to full-term and healthy infants:

- [Using penicillin antibiotics during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using benzodiazepines during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using nitrofurantoin during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using NSAIDs during breastfeeding](#)
- [Treating herpes virus infections during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using metronidazole during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using vitamin D during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using laxatives during breastfeeding](#)
- [Using emergency contraception during breastfeeding](#)

The Monthly Drug Tariff Watch

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

Updated Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS)

- [Urinary tract infection \(lower\) – women – management of uncomplicated, recurrent, catheter-associated UTIs and asymptomatic bacteriuria in women](#).
- [Spondylarthritis and psoriatic arthropathy – covers diagnosis, assessment and management](#).
- [Sinusitis – covers diagnosis and management of acute and recurrent sinusitis](#).
- [Osteoarthritis – diagnosis, management and prescribing guidance for osteoarthritis](#).

SEL Prescribing Support Dietitians (PSD) Update

SEL PSDs will no longer provide Greenwich practices with patient level audits and rapid access clinic (RAC) for children with non-IgE Cows Milk Allergy (CMA) from 1st of April 2024. They will continue to co-ordinate SEL approach on pathway/guideline development. SEL PSD Service will not accept Greenwich referrals to the telephone non-IgE CMA RAC from 15th February 2024.

Action: Children with non-IgE CMA should be referred to Oxleas via DXS.

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South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (SEL IMOC)

NEW Guidelines/Pathways

- Primary care guideline to support the [diagnosis and management of menopause](#).
- [Formulary inclusion of rivaroxaban](#) as **Red** for post deep vein arterialisation with posterior tibial vein stenting in adults with peripheral arterial disease.
- A [treatment pathway](#) to support both primary and secondary care clinicians in the management of osteoporosis.
- [Formulary inclusion of daridorexant](#) as **Green** after publication of [NICE TA 922](#) for treatment of long-term insomnia in adults. Please refer to the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) for further information and the [NICE CKS topic](#) on managing long-term insomnia.
- Inclusion of carvedilol as **Red** for prophylaxis of variceal bleeding in children with portal hypertension. Please see the [SEL Paediatric Formulary](#) (login required to access) for further information.

UPDATED Guidelines/Pathways

[DOACs in NVAf initiation and monitoring guidance](#)

[DOACs in NVAf patient referral pathway](#)

[DOACs in VTE anticoagulation choice guidance](#)

[DOACs in VTE patient referral pathway](#)

[DOACs FAQ](#)

[Calculating renal function for DOACs](#)

- The shared care guideline for the use of [denosumab in osteoporosis](#) has been reviewed and updated. Includes the use of denosumab in the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in men, re-categorised from **Red** to **Amber 3**.
- As part of the new [osteoporosis treatment pathway](#), [denosumab \(Prolia™\)](#) is now included on the SEL formulary for the management of glucocorticoid induced osteoporosis as **Red**.
- [The formulary entry for Durphat™ 5000 ppm toothpaste](#) has been updated. It remains **Red** for prescribing by dentists or oral medicine specialists, but in exceptional circumstances Head and Neck Cancer specialists may request GPs to prescribe.
- [Pilocarpine tablets and pilocarpine 4% eye drops](#) have been re-categorised from **Red** to **Amber 2**.
- [SEL guideline \(for people without diabetes\)](#) has been updated to include empagliflozin for heart failure in line with [NICE recommendations](#). Empagliflozin has been added to the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) as **Amber 1** in this setting.

The following formulary recommendations have been updated:

- [Formulary recommendation 101](#) – Buvidal® (buprenorphine weekly or monthly injection) for the treatment of opioid dependence (**Red** category – administration by community addiction services only).
- [Formulary recommendation 102](#)– Nyxoid™ (naloxone nasal spray) for the immediate emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose (**Red** category - prescribing and supply by community addiction services only).
- [Formulary recommendation 138](#) – pitolisant for the treatment of cataplexy in adult patients with type 1 narcolepsy (**Red** category – prescribing and supply by specialist sleep centre at GSTT only).
- [Apomorphine \(ApoGo™\) Shared Care Guideline](#) has been reviewed and updated.

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New and Updated Guidelines

Updated - [NICE Guideline \(NG51\): Suspected sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management](#).

PrescQIPP Bulletins

[268: IMPACT – Improving Medicines and Polypharmacy Appropriateness Clinical Tool](#)

Incorporates updates to STOPP START and BEERS. To support shared decision making with patients by providing suggestions to optimise use of medicines and advice on how to safely stop/discontinue/withdraw medication and issues to consider.

Other PrescQIPP Bulletins

[334: Continence](#) – recommendations to improve patient care and reduce waste. Only appliances listed in the relevant Drug Tariff may be issued using an NHS prescription.

[343: Omega-3 fatty acid](#) – supporting deprescribing of omega-3-fatty acid compounds and other fish oil.

[337: Male sexual dysfunction](#) – covers ED and PE with advice on cost-effective first-line treatments and support to implement recommendations.

[338: Stoma](#) – advice on appropriate stoma prescribing, including guidance on appropriate quantities for different types of stoma products.

[336: Reducing opioid prescribing in chronic pain](#) – opioid treatment should be reviewed at least 6 monthly to ensure benefits outweigh risk, as well as look for signs of emerging side effects or dependence. The risk of harm increases at doses above oral morphine equivalent of 120mg/day and there is no increased benefit.

Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) Updates

[Epilim Sodium valproate products](#): updated to reflect new safety measures.

[Femoston-conti estradiol hemihydrate /dydrogesterone](#): Oestrogen contraceptives significantly decreases lamotrigine concentration to potentially lower seizure threshold.

[Cetirizine](#): Contraindications in end-stage renal disease (GFR <15ml/min). Dosing information in renal impairment. Information about risk related to breastfeeding. Myalgia added as adverse effect of unknown frequency.

[Premarin](#): Interactions of oestrogens with lamotrigine.

[Tresiba](#): Available as 100units/ml and 200units/ml. Dose display set in units. **No** dose conversion required if switching between strengths.

Prescribing available medicines to treat ADHD (SPS)

As per National Patient Safety Alert from September 2023, please see [link](#) for updated availability of atomoxetine, dexamfetamine, guanfacine MR, lisdexamfetamine, methylphenidate and methylphenidate MR.

Recall of Nutramigen

Nutramigen has recalled two infant formula powders due to possible presence of Cronobacter sakazakii.

Action: Ask patient to check batch number as per attachment, and return affected product to community pharmacy for replacement.

Contact Details

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