

The Southwark Medicines Optimisation Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all primary care colleagues for your continued efforts during the pandemic.

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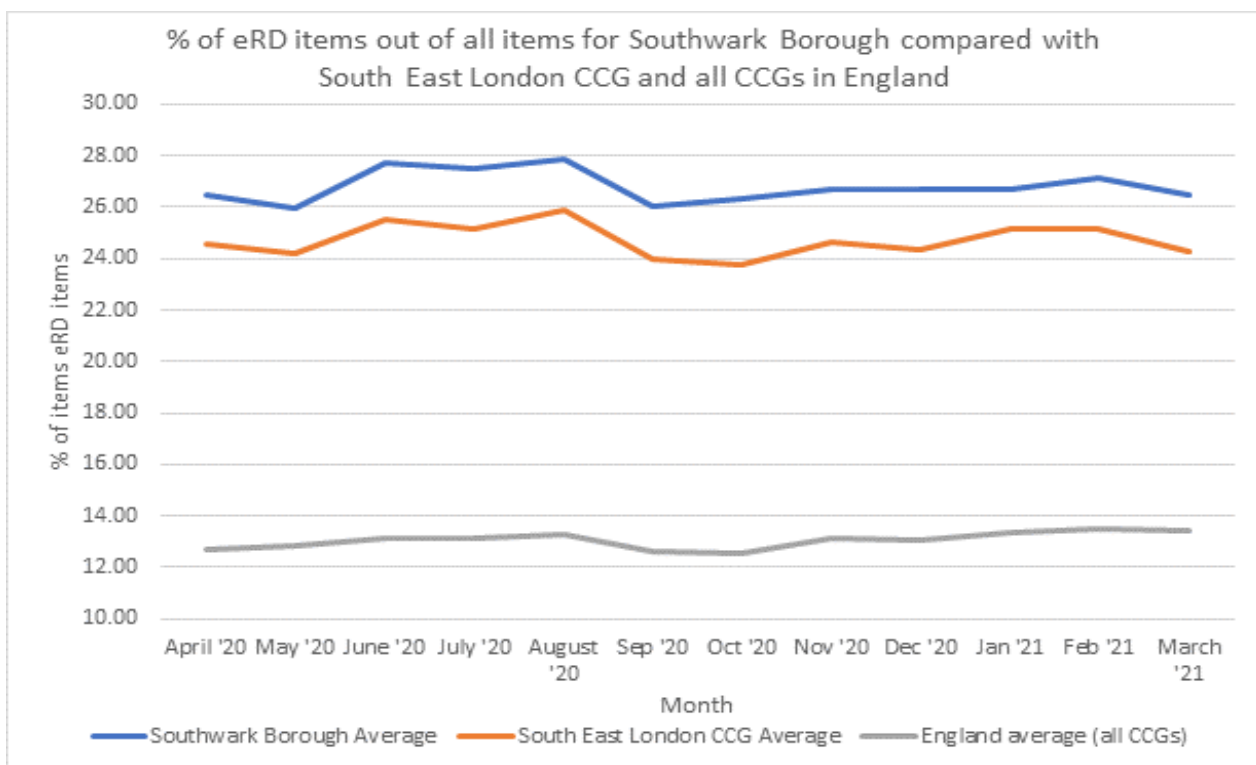
Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)

The Southwark Medicines Optimisation Team are grateful to GP practices for their continued commitment to Electronic Repeat Dispensing.

eRD is a process that allows a patient to obtain repeated supplies of their medication or appliances without the need for the prescriber to hand sign authorised repeat prescriptions each time. eRD simplifies the repeats dispensing process, leading to a reduction in footfall at the GP practices and avoiding medicine wastage.

The Southwark borough average for the percentage of eRD items issued, exceeds that of the SEL CCG and also all of England.

Practices are asked to continue reviewing their patients to identify those that may be suitable for eRD. Further advice can be found in the guidance published by [NHS England on Electronic Repeat Dispensing](#).



Query Corner



Q: Can we prescribe FineTest™ Lite blood glucose testing strips in primary care?

A: FineTest™ Lite is one of the preferred blood glucose testing strips for patients with non-complex type 2 diabetes in Southwark. Therefore, it can be prescribed in primary care.

For further information please see our local guidance [document](#).

MHRA Drug Safety Update - new prescribing advice on Levothyroxine

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a [drug safety update](#) on 19th May 2021 on the prescribing of levothyroxine in a subset of patients who have experienced symptoms of thyroid dysfunction. A small proportion of patients on levothyroxine tablets have reported symptoms of thyroid dysfunction when switching from levothyroxine tablets to a differing levothyroxine product.

In this patient population the MHRA recommends testing the patient's thyroid function. If the patient remains persistently symptomatic following this change, it is recommended that healthcare professionals consider switching to a specific levothyroxine product known to be well tolerated by the patient. If symptoms then continue to persist, in spite of the adherence to a specific product, the MHRA advises that healthcare professionals should consider consistently prescribing levothyroxine in an oral solution formulation. Please check the BNF for licensed oral solutions.

As these symptoms have only been reported in a small subset of patients on levothyroxine, generic prescribing remains appropriate for the majority of patients.

Prescribing updates – Estradiol (Lenzetto® 1.53 mg/spray)

Estradiol transdermal spray is approved for use in [South East London](#) and has been added to the formulary for use within its licensed indication; for oestrogen deficiency symptoms in postmenopausal women.

In line with the SEL recommendations, Lenzetto® Spray can be used as an alternative treatment option for patients who were unable to comply with the instructions of use for other topical hormone replacement therapy products (such as patches and gels) in the formulary, or experience adverse formulation reactions to other topical HRT formulations.

Actions for GP's:

- If Lenzetto® is initiated in primary care, patients should be re-evaluated periodically, as clinically appropriate, to determine if treatment is still necessary.

For further information please see the following:

- Summary of Product Characteristics for [Lenzetto® 1.53 mg/spray](#)
- SEL IMOC recommendation: [Estradiol transdermal spray \(Lenzetto®; 1.53 mg/spray\)](#)



Future Webinars

Please see below the upcoming webinars that you may find useful to attend:

- Training session on Annual Health Checks for Learning Disability and Autism – **Wednesday 16th June 12.30 – 13.30** - [click here](#) for the link to join the meeting.
- Paediatrics Unlicensed Specials Webinar - **Wednesday 23rd June 13:00-14:00** - [click here](#) for the link to join the meeting.

Discontinued Medication and Shortages

Please use the [MIMS Drug Shortages – Live Tracker](#) for the latest information on stock supply disruptions as well as medication that has returned into stock. This is updated daily and has links to further information for each medication issue.