

## MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

### Greenwich Pharmacy First PLUS Scheme (Apr 24 – Dec 24)

The Pharmacy First Plus Scheme provides professional health care advice and over the counter medicines **free of charge** for select common minor ailments from participating Greenwich pharmacies. Conditions covered under the Pharmacy First Plus Scheme currently include:

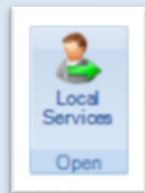
- Mild to moderate hay fever/seasonal rhinitis
- Vitamin D supplement for at risk patient (4 month supply)

Benefits of the scheme:

- Ensure patients are reviewed by the most appropriate health care professional.
- Improve accessibility and support vulnerable patients in accessing medicines.
- Encourages patients to self-care.
- Practice staff training from local pharmacy.

Important Information Medicines will ONLY be supplied to patients by community pharmacists following structured assessment, indicating patient need for treatment for a current selected condition. Please note that pregnant and/or breastfeeding individuals are excluded under this scheme.

**Action:** Create an EMIS Local Services referral without the need for an appointment where patients will be provided with professional health care advice and OTC medicines. Please see the attached poster for more information and list of pharmacies participating in this local scheme.



### Pharmacist Training

#### • Online Pharmacy First Webinars for SEL Pharmacists

Two SEL online [pharmacy webinars](#) to support delivery of the 7 NHSE Pharmacy First clinical pathways (7.30-9.30pm.).

1. Acute Otitis Media, Otitis Media, Sore Throat, Sinusitis (25/04)
2. Impetigo, Shingles, Infected Insect Bites and UTI (30/04)

**Action:** Please see attached flyer to register

#### • Virtual ENT training session

The SEL Workforce Development Hub has organised a virtual ENT training session for pharmacy colleagues to focus on common otology problems that may be encountered in the community on 02/05/24 at 1pm.

**Action:** Please see attached flyer to register

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### Recording non-practice medications prescribed by other parties (not the GP) on GP clinical systems

There are several medications prescribed and/or supplied to patients by other parties outside of the GP practice. Typically, these include specialist drugs prescribed by secondary care only, but can also include OTC medication. It is important for these medications to be added to a patient's record, to allow healthcare professionals to make fully informed clinical decisions.

**Action:** The process of recording medicines prescribed elsewhere onto GP practice records is outlined in the following [link](#).

### New Inhaler Return and Recycling Project

Patients can now recycle inhalers at participating pharmacies and hospitals in SEL, part of a collaborative short-term project that is funded and supported by [Greener NHS](#). This project also meets the objectives set out in the [SEL ICS Green Plan 2022-2025](#) of ensuring no clinical waste goes to landfill and reducing environmental impact of inhalers. All pharmacies will accept unused or expired inhalers, but only those shown on the [map](#) are currently able to recycle them. Click [here](#) for further information on the project.

#### • Actions for practices and community pharmacy teams:

- Signpost patients to their local pharmacy to return any old, expired and unused inhalers.
- Educate patients that all inhalers should NOT go in the bin or recycling at home and the subsequent impact this has on climate change.

### Medicines Supply Notifications

• Medicines Supply Notifications (MSNs) have been issued for the following:

- Tier 2 MSN for Phenobarbital 15mg tablets (Accord)
- Tier 2 MSN for Carbamazepine 100mg and 200mg tablets
- Tier 2 MSN for Cefalexin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspension

• The contents of these MSNs can be viewed on the [Medicines Supply Tool](#). This tool details any changes to resupply dates and updates to the entries. To access the tool you will be required to register with the [SPS](#).

• [SEL IMOC - Shortages](#) produces supporting information for primary care to manage significant medicines shortages.

• The historical issues of Drug Tariff Watch are available [here](#).

### Tramadol and warfarin interaction

A severe interaction between tramadol and warfarin has now been listed in the BNF as of January 2024, due to a case where a patient died from a severe bleed to the brain following tramadol being prescribed whilst on warfarin.

**Action:** Use an alternative analgesic, if possible, especially if use is 'as required' and the frequency of use is unpredictable. If tramadol must be used, then implement increased surveillance and safety netting of patients to ensure that they are aware of the interaction and potential risk of bleeding.

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### MHRA Drug Safety Update March 2024

This month's update provides a summary of recent letters and notifications sent to healthcare professionals about medicines and medical devices and can be accessed [here](#).

### NHS England letter supporting physicians associates in general practice

NHS England have issued a [letter](#) to general practices to bring attention to guidance and actions to support practices that employ physician associates.

### Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) resources

- [Treating nausea during breastfeeding](#)

This resource covers options for managing nausea when breastfeeding healthy, full term babies. It provides information on the choice of anti-emetics, drug-specific recommendations and patient information.

- [Using tetracycline antibiotics during breastfeeding](#)

This web resource suggests tetracycline is the preferred choice in breastfeeding healthy, full term babies, for short term use, if clinically needed.

- [Calculating kidney function](#)

This explains the various methods of calculating renal function and the limitations. It has been updated with information on which weight to use when calculating CrCl using the Cockcroft-Gault formula and converting from eGFR to actual GFR.

**To access these articles, you will need to register on SPS.**

### Direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC) advice when patients undergo surgery

Patients undergoing surgery on DOACs should be informed if they are required to stop taking their DOAC at the pre-assessment clinic. If this has not occurred or is not clear, the surgical team or local anticoagulation clinic should be contacted.

If a patient has not had anticoagulation restarted following surgery, the surgical team should be contacted as a plan should be communicated to primary care in all cases.

• The [SEL FAQ document on DOACs](#) can be accessed for further information.

### National Diabetes Prevention Programme (NDPP) and weight management services in Greenwich

The Greenwich Diabetes information pack and weight management services can be accessed via the attachments for information on how to refer to these services and the eligibility criteria.

#### Action:

- Referral forms for NDPP and weight management services can be found on DXS.
- A webinar will be held on "Preventing Diabetes: NDPP Updates, Second Nature & GDM Pathway" on 18th April (13:00-13:45) **or** 24th April (12:00-12:45). Register your place via this [link](#)

## Contact Details

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### Health Innovation Network Webinars

The Health innovation network is hosting 2 webinars in May :

- **Prescribing Safely in Older People – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

This webinar focuses on prescribing for older people, understanding drug metabolism and the common safety issues. Please see the [flyer](#) with details on how to register.

- **Stopping Antidepressants Safely – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

This webinar, led by Dr Mark Horowitz (author of The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines, Clinical Research Fellow and Training Psychiatrist) will focus on stopping antidepressants safely and managing withdrawal symptoms. Please see the [flyer](#) with details on how to register

### PrescQIPP Bulletins

- **345: Domiciliary care** - Recommendations for prescribers and dispensers on medicines management for people receiving domiciliary care.

- **341: Management of medicines in schools and early years settings** – Support for schools and early years settings to enable children with medical needs to take medicines in school when needed.

- **339: Low priority prescribing** – Updated low priority prescribing guidance, which covers the NHS England Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care guidance and provides general advice.

### New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [Meningitis \(bacterial\) and meningococcal disease: recognition, diagnosis and management](#)
- [Suspected sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management](#)

### BNF Updates

#### Significant changes

- [Aripiprazole](#) (Abilify® and generic brands): risk of pathological gambling.
- [Empagliflozin](#): update to advice on use in renal impairment, including new indication for chronic kidney disease.
- [Quinolones](#): must now only be prescribed when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate (see example in ciprofloxacin).
- [Type 2 diabetes](#): updated guidance for management.
- [Vitamin B12](#): advise patients with known cobalt allergy to be vigilant for sensitivity reactions (advice in cyanocobalamin, hydroxocobalamin; see example in hydroxocobalamin).

### Covid-19 vaccinations

- [National Protocol for Covid-19 vaccines \(Adults\)](#) - administration of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 18 years and over
- [National protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine \(5 to 17 years of age\)](#) - administration of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine to individuals aged 5 to 17 years