

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Medicines Optimisation Workplan 2024/25

The Medicines Optimisation team are happy to announce the launch of the 2024/25 workplan. The team will arrange practice visits to discuss during May. For further information please email greenwich.pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk

Discontinuation of insulin InnoLet® devices

Insulatard InnoLet® (insulin isophane human) 100units/ml pre-filled disposable device and Levemir InnoLet® (insulin detemir) 100units/ml pre-filled disposable device are being discontinued with remaining stock exhausted by the end of May 2024.

Actions for GP practices:

- Ensure patients are no longer initiated on these products.
- Identify and review patients using the EMIS search attached (Attachment 1).
- Switch to an alternative device or insulin.
- The recommended alternative to Insulatard InnoLet® (insulin isophane human) 100units/ml pre-filled disposable device is Humulin® I KwikPen 100 units/ml pre-filled pens at the same dose (unless experiencing hypo- or hyperglycaemia).
- Alternatives to the Levemir InnoLet® (insulin detemir) 100units/ml pre-filled disposable device are Levemir FlexPens® 100 units/ml or Levemir Penfill® cartridges 100 units/ml (with compatible reusable pen) at the same dose (unless experiencing hypo- or hyperglycaemia).
- A face to face review is required to ensure all patients are counselled, provided with training, prescribed the appropriate needles, and if required, compatible reusable pen device. Additional glucose monitoring is advised.
- Please see the MSN [here](#) for further information.
- Please refer to specialist diabetes teams for review if the alternative options are not suitable for the patient.

Primary Care Support England (PCSE) Online

PCSE Online can be used to update any changes to GP Performer List details. The following GP Performer information can be amended via the online portal:

- Personal details - keep your contact details up to date.
- Employment details - update your status, practice details and number of sessions.
- NHSE Region - Change the NHS area you work in.
- GP registrars completing training - change your performer type from GP registrar to GP Performer.
- Withdrawal from list - notify PCSE of resignation and full or 24-hr retirement. Find out more [here](#)

All GPs in England already have a PCSE Online account.

The username is usually the email address registered with the GMC. If you have never logged into PCSE Online, you may need to validate your PCSE Online account. Please email pcse.portalenquiries@nhs.net to have a new verification email sent or call the Customer Support Centre on 0333 014 2884.

Please see links for [New GP Performers](#), [Existing GP Performers](#), [GP Registrars completing training](#) and [Performer Management User Guide](#)

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

COPD inhaler pathway

The SEL COPD inhaler pathway has been ratified by SEL IMOC and is live on the ICB website [here](#). The previous SEL COPD Guideline is now out of date, and we are advising that clinicians use [2024 GOLD Report](#) for information on other aspects of COPD management if required.

Medicines Shortages: Medicine Supply Notification (MSN)

The contents of MSNs can be viewed on the [Medicines Supply Tool](#). To access the tool you will be required to register with the SPS. Medicines Supply Notifications (MSNs) have been issued for the following:

- Tier 3 MSN for Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®) capsules
- Tier 2 MSN for Humalog® (insulin lispro) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials.
- Tier 2 MSN for Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy
- Tier 2 MSN for Isosorbide mononitrate (Monomil® XL) 60mg modified-release tablets.

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

Varenicline supply expected to return by end of 2024

Champix® has been unavailable since 2021 due to detection of nitrosamine. Pfizer is planning for resupply at the end of 2024. Further information can be found [here](#).

GP Connect - Update Record for Pharmacy First Service (PFS) consultations

GP Connect Update Record is being used to support NHS England's PFS by updating patients' EMIS GP records with details of consultations held at community pharmacies. The **structured data** is filed on the patient's record as a **provisional consultation**, a workflow task is created under **Awaiting Filing/Coding** to be reviewed and actioned by the practice. Once completed, all details of the consultation are filed appropriately. Advantages:

- Saves time from manually entering PFS consultations
- Reduce the risk of errors and missing information provided by pharmacies
- PFS consultation records will also appear on Summary Care Records

Please visit [here](#) for steps to check activation and for further information (*The link requires Emisnow login*).

New 5-year plan to combat antimicrobial resistance

The new plan supports the 20-year vision to contain and control antimicrobial resistance by 2040. It will commit the UK to reducing antimicrobial use, strengthen surveillance of drug-resistant infections and incentivise industry to develop new medicines. Further information can be found [here](#).

Measles Update

Since 1st October 2023, there has been an increase in measles cases across England. The latest measles epidemiology information can be found [here](#). Please see the updated [measles FAQs](#) for primary care clinicians on best practice.

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

EMIS Local Services - Electronic referrals to community pharmacies for blood pressure and oral contraceptives

An EMIS Local Services triage option has been commissioned to support referrals to community pharmacies for:

1. Hypertension screening service

Community pharmacies can undertake clinic and ambulatory blood pressure checks for patients on the hypertension register who do not have an up-to-date BP recorded or patients requiring ambulatory blood pressure monitoring following an initial high BP measurement.

2. Oral contraceptives

Consider referral to pharmacies for initiation of oral contraceptives or repeat supplies of oral contraceptives

Further information will be in the latest GP newsletter.

MHRA Drug Safety Update April 2024

- **Finasteride: reminder of the risk psychiatric side effects and of sexual side effects (which may persist after discontinuation of treatment).** A patient alert card is being introduced for men taking finasteride to raise awareness of the risk of psychiatric side effects and sexual dysfunction, including the potential to persist after treatment is stopped.
- **Montelukast: reminder of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions** Healthcare professionals should be alert to the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions in all patients prescribed montelukast. Reactions can include sleep disorders, hallucinations, anxiety and depression. People should be alert to the risk and seek medical advice if reactions occur.

Frailty Advice from QEH via Consultant Connect

Queen Elizabeth Hospital provide advice on Falls and Frailty via Consultant Connect (this advice line is available to GPs in Bexley and Greenwich). To seek advice, please select 'Elderly Care QE' from the drop-down list on Consultant Connect.

General practice vaccination and immunisation services: standards and core contractual requirements

This [document](#) outlines the vaccination and immunisation standards and core contractual requirements for general practice as set out in the Regulations and the previously issued 10 March 2021 NHS England letter.

New resources to help eliminate hepatitis C

Resources are available to pharmacy owners to help raise awareness of hepatitis C and encouraging hepatitis C testing in patients. Resources include a primary care toolkit, national testing portal poster, a leaflet, and an accredited training module. Further information can be found [here](#).

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) Webinars

The SPS is hosting the following webinars:

- **Navigating difficult conversations with confidence on Wednesday 5 June 12:30pm to 2pm.** Please see the link [here](#) for further information and how to register.
- **Managing complexities of medication use across care boundaries on 26th June 12:30pm – 2pm.** Please see the link [here](#) for further information and how to register

Contact Details

Medicines Optimisation greenwich.pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk

Primary Care: Nicky Skeats: Nicky.Skeats@selondonics.nhs.uk

System Development: Jo Hare: joannahare@selondonics.nhs.uk

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

SMA[®] Soya Infant Formula Supply Shortage

There is a supply shortage of the soya based infant formula – **SMA[®] soya**. As per [SEL guidance](#), SMA[®] soya should be purchased OTC, **except** for infants with galactosaemia.

Actions for GPs and Pharmacists:

- Continue to prescribe SMA[®] soya in galactosaemia.
- In patients over 12 months, a calcium-enriched soya milk alternative (non-organic and not a formula) should be purchased **provided a dietitian has not advised against this**
- If alternatives are contraindicated, a one-off prescription for 28 days may be issued, only if the patient:
 - Has a **confirmed** diagnosis of cow's milk allergy (please refer to [guidelines](#) on diagnostics to confirm allergy)
 - Is 6-12 months of age
 - Symptoms settled on SMA[®] Soya formula
 - Is unable to access supply without prescription

Pharmacists should review prescriptions after 28 days to ensure prescriptions are ceased and being purchased OTC.

Please contact the SEL Prescribing Support Dietitians for further support: gst-tr.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net

New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- **Endometriosis: diagnosis and management**

PrescQIPP Bulletins

- **348: Antiepileptic Drugs** - Includes new valproate safety information and support to appropriately switch antiepileptic drugs to safer or less costly alternatives
- **346: Silk Garments** - Supports the implementation of NHSE guidance on items which should not be routinely prescribed
- **344: Eye preparations** - focuses on eye products for glaucoma and dry eye and offers guidance on prescribing, self care and cost effective treatment choices.

BNF Updates

Significant changes

- **Ceftriaxone** - update to structure of indications and dose
- **Clindamycin** - update to structure of indications and dose
- **Non-hormonal contraceptives** - updated in-line with FSRH recommendations on intra-uterine contraception
- **Ezetimibe** - new indication for prevention of CVD events
- **Omega-3-acid ethyl esters (Omacor[®]/Teromeg[®] 1000 mg capsules)** - dose-dependent increased risk of AF in patients with established CVD or cardiovascular risk factors.
- **Sodium Valproate** - new safety and educational materials to support regulatory measures in men and women under 55 years old.

New Monographs

- **Cytisinicline** to aid smoking cessation
- **Ebglyss[®] (lebrikizumab)** for moderate/severe atopic eczema
- **Kanuma[®] (sebelipase alfa)** for lysosomal acid lipase deficiency **Rezzayo[®] (rezafungin)** for invasive candidiasis
- **Zynlonta[®] (loncastuximab tesirine)** for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; for high-grade B-cell lymphoma

New Preparations

- **Emylif[®]** orodispersible film (**riluzole**)
- **Etacortilen[®]** eye drops (**dexamethasone**)
- **Mounjaro KwikPen[®]** (**tirzepatide**)