

## MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

### Information on the Synnovis cyber attack

NHS England continues to work with Synnovis and the National Crime Agency to respond to the criminal ransomware attack on Synnovis systems. For the latest information and materials about the Synnovis cyber-attack from NHS South East London ICB, click [here](#). To support people taking medication that requires regular blood tests, the medicines optimisation team are working with GPs and specialists to develop clinical guidance that applies across primary and secondary care. This is being released in batches as it is developed. You can find the current guidance [here](#).

### SEL Inhaler Recycling Scheme now LIVE!

South East London ICS has launched an inhaler recycling pilot which will see patients return used or expired pressurised metered dose inhalers to participating hospital sites and community pharmacies. The first recycling site at King's College Hospital went live on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and the ICS is now glad to announce the full launch across 20 community pharmacies in phase 1 of the project.

The inhalers will be recycled with the aim of recovering and repurposing the propellants in the inhalers which are environmentally damaging greenhouse gases.

#### Action:

- Please find further information about the project and participating sites [here](#).
- The project team are surveying public views about returning inhalers, [have your say here](#).
- Contact the project team via email [SELInhalerRecycling@selondonics.nhs.uk](mailto:SELInhalerRecycling@selondonics.nhs.uk) for further information.

### Greenwich Pharmacy First and Pharmacy First Plus Summary

A summary of the Pharmacy First Services in Greenwich, including running periods, how referrals are made, participating pharmacies and additional resources can be found [here](#).

#### Action:

- Please familiarise yourself with the Pharmacy First services in Greenwich Summary Refer to [NHS Pharmacy First Service overview](#) for further information on service pathway
- Referral to any of the Pharmacy First services is done via 'Local Services' button on EMIS



### Resources to support patients having a Structured Medication Review (SMR)

The Health Innovation Network (HIN) have collaborated with Yorkshire and Humber Patient Safety Research Collaboration, Me and My Medicines, Are the medicines working? and Age UK to develop resources to support patients with SMRs.

The resources can be found [here](#) and include the following:

- Patient invitation letter
- Safely stopping your medicine leaflet
- Me and my medicines charter
- Are your medicines working? Checklist and symptom tracker
- Patient feedback survey

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### Dry Eye Guidance

Two resources have been developed to support dry eye treatment and encourage self-care where appropriate.

1. The SEL Primary Care Prescribing Guide for Ocular Lubricants for Adults is now available [here](#).
2. Greenwich Cost Effective Brand Options - outlines cost-effective dry eye product recommendations, aimed to support implementation of the SEL guidelines (see Attachment 1)

#### Action:

- For mild and moderate dry eyes, patients should be advised to manage through self-care by obtaining the products over the counter.
- Where a prescription is needed e.g. for severe dry eyes, cost effective brands should be used.

### Vaccinations

#### Flu vaccination service 2024/25

As advised in the [National flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2025 letter](#) from NHSE, vaccination for children and pregnant women should start from 1 September 2024.

All other flu vaccinations (i.e. adults) will commence 3 October 2024. A [statement of amendment to the annual flu letter for 2024 to 2025](#) was issued, following the news from Sanofi that recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVr) would not be available for the 2024/25 flu vaccination programme and further amendments to the letter include a new flu vaccine which can be used for the first time – high-dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV-HD) – which is only licensed for those aged 60 years and over.

Please refer to the [influenza vaccine recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) for more information.

#### Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination programme for pregnant women

[Guidance](#) updated to reflect the change to use of the low dose tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine (ADACEL) for pregnant women from 1 July 2024. Any remaining stocks of Boostrix-IPV should be used for the pre-school booster programme in primary care.

#### Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme

UKHSA have produced [documents](#) relating to the new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes, which will be introduced from 1st September 2024.

The new programmes include older adults aged 75 to 79 years old, and pregnant women.

#### Hormone replacement therapy (HRT): resources for answering questions

This [article](#) describes the resources that healthcare professionals can use for advising on the menopause and HRT decision making. Specific SPS resources include two webinars and a product availability tool. Speciality guidance, e.g. British Menopause Society resources, is signposted.

# MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

## MHRA Drug Safety Update June 2024

[Topiramate \(Topamax\): introduction of new safety measures, including a Pregnancy Prevention Programme](#)

Topiramate is now contraindicated in pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential unless the conditions of a Pregnancy Prevention Programme are fulfilled. This follows a review by the MHRA which concluded that the use of topiramate during pregnancy is associated with significant harm to the unborn child. A number of [resources](#) are now available as part of the topiramate pregnancy prevention programme.

[Warfarin: be alert to the risk of drug interactions with tramadol](#)

Taking warfarin and tramadol together can cause harmful drug interactions, which can raise the International Normalised Ratio (INR), and result in severe bruising and bleeding, which in some patients could be fatal.

[Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in May 2024](#)

A summary of recent letters and notifications sent to healthcare professionals about medicines and medical devices.

## New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [Technology Appraisal guidance \(TA981\) – Voxelotor for treating haemolytic anaemia caused by sickle cell disease](#)

## Medicines Supply Issues

### Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

If the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) decide there is a serious shortage of a specific medicine, then an SSP may be issued. The following SSPs have been issued for:

- [SSP for Creon® 25000 gastro-resistant capsules where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than one month's supply. – 24 May to 22 November 2024](#)
- [SSP for Creon® 10000 gastro-resistant capsules where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than one month's supply - 24 May to 22 November 2024](#)
- [SSP for Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension – 22 May to 19 July 2024](#)
- [SSP for Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension - 22 May to 19 July 2024](#)

### 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. MSNs have been issued for the following:

- Tier 2 MSN for Flixotide® (fluticasone) 125micrograms/dose and 250micrograms/dose Evohaler®
- Tier 2 MSN for Humalog® (insulin lispro) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials
- Tier 2 MSN for Imiquimod (Aldara®) 5% cream and podophyllotoxin (Warticon®) 0.5% solution and 0.15% cream
- Tier 2 MSN for Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free
- Tier 2 MSN for Disopyramide (Rythmodan Retard®) 250mg modified-release tablets and disopyramide (Rythmodan®) 100mg capsules

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

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## PrescQIPP Updates

### Bulletins

- [Bulletin 347. Chronic heart failure](#) – This bulletin reviews the diagnosis, current treatment strategies and monitoring needs in people with chronic heart failure.
- [Bulletin 351. Insulin](#) - This bulletin provides information on insulin preparations; insulin usage; factors influencing choice of therapy and safety issues.

### Events

- Clinical Masterclass - Antimicrobial Stewardship; new National Action Plan (NAP) for success in Antimicrobial Stewardship – **16 July 2024 - 1-2pm**. Please see link [here](#) for information on how to register.
- Clinical Masterclass - The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines: Antidepressants, Benzodiazepines, Gabapentinoids and Z-drugs – **14 August 2024, 1-2pm**. Please see link [here](#) for information on how to register.

## BNF Update

### Significant Changes:

- [Antibacterials use for prophylaxis](#) - addition of antibacterial prophylaxis guidance for assisted vaginal birth (ventouse or forceps).
- [Borderline substances](#) - products suitable for conditions requiring a ketogenic diet have been moved to a new section called Ketogenic diet.
- [Diabetic hyperglycaemic emergencies](#) - updated guidance for management of individuals aged 16-18 years.
- [Immunisation schedule](#) - updated guidance for herpes zoster (shingles) immunisation.
- [Meningococcal vaccines](#) - updated guidance for immunisation.
- [Metformin hydrochloride](#) - new indication and dose for type 1 diabetes mellitus.
- [Obstetrics](#) - updated guidance for the prevention and treatment of haemorrhage.
- [Prescribing in renal impairment](#) - update to CKD-EPI equation to remove race.
- [Sacubitril with valsartan](#) - update to dose expression.
- [Varicella-zoster vaccines](#) - updated guidance for immunisation against herpes zoster (shingles).

### Dose Changes:

- [Bexsero®](#) (meningococcal group B vaccine (rDNA, component, adsorbed)) - update to dosing
- [Carbetocin](#) - update to indication and dose
- [Cyanocobalamin](#) - update to dosing
- [Ergometrine maleate](#) - update to dosing for postpartum haemorrhage caused by uterine atony
- [Ergometrine with oxytocin](#) - update to dosing for active management of the third stage of labour
- [Haemophilus influenzae type b with meningococcal group C vaccine](#) - update to dosing
- [Herpes-zoster vaccine \(recombinant, adjuvanted\)](#) - update to dosing
- [Meningococcal groups A with C and W135 and Y vaccine](#) - update to dosing
- [Oxytocin](#) - update to dosing for active management of the third stage of labour

## Contact Details

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