

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Possible excess quantities of semaglutide and tirzepatide

Semaglutide and tirzepatide are both listed in the [South East London Joint Medicines formulary](#) to treat diabetes.

Both injections are used weekly and are available as a multidose pre-filled pen, each of which contain four doses. Based on this, one multidose pen will last for one month.

There have been cases where 3 pre filled pens have been issued in error every month, leading to excess quantities being prescribed and dispensed.

Action:

- GP Practices to run the EMIS enterprise search to identify patients with possible excess quantities of semaglutide and tirzepatide (see attached searches)
- Ensure all GLP-1 quantities and doses are reviewed and amended in line with the [SEL GLP-1 pathway](#)
- Community Pharmacists to proactively identify patients with possible excess quantities of semaglutide and tirzepatide and liaise with GP practices
- For patients prescribed a GLP-1 on repeat dispensing (eRD), review the quantity and notify GP practices for changes and any non-adherence

South East London inhaler recycling scheme

A reminder that SEL ICS has launched an inhaler recycling pilot for patients to return used or expired pressurised metered dose inhalers to participating hospital sites and community pharmacies. 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](#).

Ask About Asthma campaign 2024

The annual [#AskAboutAsthma](#) awareness campaign returns from 9-15 September 2024, led by the [NHS England – London's Babies, Children and Young People Programme](#).

[#AskAboutAsthma](#) is about making simple changes to children and young people's care that will make a big difference to how they experience their asthma.

This year's theme focuses on helping children and young people with asthma to live their best lives.

The [#AskAboutAsthma](#) campaign encourages children and young people, their families, and those involved in their care, to follow these four simple and effective measures to help manage their asthma:

1. Get an [asthma action plan](#) in place
2. Understand how to [use inhalers correctly](#)
3. [Schedule an asthma review](#) – every year and after every attack
4. Consider [air pollution](#) and its impact on lung health

Action:

- Visit the [campaign webpage](#) and download the [2024 campaign toolkit](#)
- Sign up to campaign week virtual events - [view the planned schedule for the week here](#)

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Whooping Cough vaccination in pregnancy

Pertussis cases have continued to rapidly rise since the current outbreak began in November 2023.

The NHS is encouraging staff who come into contact with pregnant women to signpost or offer pertussis vaccination at every opportunity.

Action:

- Review the [communication materials](#) available to support pertussis vaccination in pregnancy
- Signpost or offer pertussis vaccination in pregnant women at every opportunity

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine: Patient Group Direction (PGD) template

This [PGD template](#) supports the administration of the RSV vaccine to women from 28 weeks of pregnancy and older adults aged 75 to 79 years of age, in accordance with the national programme.

It should be used with reference to current national guidance, the Green Book and the Summary of Product Characteristics.

The [joint letter](#) from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS England sets out the details of the 2 RSV vaccination programmes from 1 September 2024.

Action:

- Review the [PGD template](#) available to support RSV vaccination

Queen Elizabeth Hospital haematology contact details

The following contact details can be used to liaise with the QEH haematology department:

- WARFARIN advice email address
lg.qe-anticoagulation@nhs.net
- DOAC advice email address
lg.qe-anticoagreferrals@nhs.net
- Anticoagulation Clinic telephone number
020 8836 5660
- QEH Switchboard
020 8836 6000, Bleep 847 or Ext 4970

MHRA Drug Safety Update July 2024

[Epimax Ointment and Epimax Paraffin-Free Ointment: reports of ocular surface toxicity and ocular chemical injury](#)

Epimax Ointment and Epimax Paraffin-Free Ointment can harm the eyes if used on the face. Do not prescribe these ointments for use on the face. Tell patients to wash their hands and avoid touching their eyes after using these products.

[Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in June 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 \(TA990\) - Tenecteplase for treating acute ischaemic stroke](#)
- [Technology appraisal guidance \(TA986\) - Lebrikizumab for treating moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in people 12 years and over](#)

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

[National Patient Safety Alert \(NatPSA\) – Shortage of Kay-Cee-L® \(potassium chloride 375mg/5ml\) \(potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml\) syrup](#)

Kay-Cee-L® (potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml) syrup will be out of stock from late September 2024.

Sando-K® (potassium bicarbonate 400mg and potassium chloride 600mg) effervescent tablets remain available and can support a full increase in demand (one effervescent tablet contains 12mmol potassium).

Remaining supplies of Kay-Cee-L® syrup should be prioritised for patients requiring doses of less than 12mmol of potassium and where other preparations are not suitable.

Care is needed to ensure selection of the most appropriate oral potassium supplement and delivery of the correct dosage.

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:

- **Quetiapine 300mg tablets - 16 July to 13 September 2024**
 - [SSP 068 - where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for one month's supply or less and quetiapine 300mg tablets are not available](#)
 - [SSP 069 – where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than one month's supply and quetiapine 300mg tablets are available](#)
 - [SSP 070 - where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than one month's supply and quetiapine 300mg tablets are not available](#)
- **Quetiapine 200mg tablets - 16 July to 13 September 2024**
 - [SSP 065 – where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for one month's supply or less and quetiapine 200mg tablets are not available](#)
 - [SSP 066 - where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than one month's supply and quetiapine 200mg tablets are available](#)
 - [SSP 067 – where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than one month's supply and quetiapine 200mg tablets are not available](#)
- **Quetiapine 150mg tablets - 16 July to 13 September 2024**
 - [SSP 062 – where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for one month's supply or less and quetiapine 150mg tablets are not available](#)
 - [SSP 063 – Where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than one month's supply and quetiapine 150mg tablets are available](#)
 - [SSP 064 – where the duration of treatment on the prescription is for more than one month's supply and quetiapine 150mg tablets are not available](#)

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 Carbamazepine 100mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (Accord)
- Tier 2 MSN for Quetiapine 150mg, 200mg, 300mg tablets
- Tier 2 MSN for Ipratropium bromide 250micrograms/1ml and 500micrograms/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials

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

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

SEL Guiding principles to support Primary Care in managing medicines supply shortages

A guiding principles document has been developed by South East London to support Primary Care clinicians (community pharmacies and GP practices) with the management of medicines supply shortages.

The document is available [here](#).

PrescQIPP Updates

Bulletins

- [Bulletin 333. CGM and insulin pump formulary and commissioning guidance](#) - These resources assess which device is most suitable for which cohorts of people and, reduce variability in prescribing.
- [Bulletin 342. Alternative to specials database](#) - The specials database is an A to Z list of products often prescribed as specials and recommends on licenced or off label alternatives, where appropriate.

Events

- Clinical Masterclass - Antipsychotic prescribing in people with dementia - **17 September 2024 1-2pm**
Please see link [here](#) for information on how to register.

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)

Webinars

- Primary care discussions: Heart Failure on Tuesday 20 August 1-2pm. Please see link [here](#) for further information and how to register.

Prescribing and ordering available pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies

The availability of pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies (PERTs) varies currently. SPS has produced [resources](#) and a mini-tool to find matches for licensed products.

BNF Update

Significant Changes:

- [Borderline substances](#) - products suitable for additional energy, protein, or fibre requirements have been moved to a new section called Energy, protein, and fibre fortifiers
- [Co-codamol](#) - update to dose expression
- [Combined hormonal contraceptives](#) - update to breast-feeding advice (see example in [ethinylestradiol with norethisterone](#))
- [Ear](#) - updated guidance for the removal of ear wax
- [Finasteride](#) - reminder of the risk of psychiatric side effects and of sexual side effects (which may persist after discontinuation of treatment) [MHRA/CHM advice]
- [Intra-uterine contraceptive devices \(copper\)](#) - name change of Novaplus T 380® Ag to Eurogine T 380® Ag and Novaplus T 380® Cu to Eurogine T 380® Cu
- [Leuprorelin acetate](#) - name change of Staladex® 10.72 mg to Staladex® 11.25 mg
- [Montelukast](#) - reminder of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions [MHRA/CHM advice]

New Monographs:

- [Produodopa®](#) [foslevodopa with foscarbidopa]
- [Vanflyta®](#) [quizartinib]

Contact Details

Medicines Optimisation: greenwich.pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk

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

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