

## MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

### Advice to GPs in SE London relating to Oviva Tier 3 Weight Management Services

SEL ICB has received queries from GPs, regarding potential referrals to Oviva for Tier 3 Weight Management Services. Oviva have been marketing their remote Tier 3 Weight Management programme, including potential Wegovy injections, direct to GPs across SE London.

It is important to emphasise a number of points:

- SEL ICB has not directly commissioned Oviva and does not hold a direct contract with them. However, Oviva has listed themselves on eRS based on contracts they hold or have held with other ICBs, as per the Right to Choose Framework.
- We are reviewing the Oviva Tier 3 offer, which appears different to the formally commissioned Tier 3 services in SE London. Once we have fully reviewed the Oviva commissioned pathway, we will be able to update on its fit with SE London pathways and eligibility criteria
- As part of their service offer, Oviva may offer access to Wegovy. The SEL ICS has agreed a needs-based approach to Wegovy implementation, targeting our highest-need group, all of whom currently access the highest level (tier 4) of specialist weight management services in SE London hospitals. A referral to Oviva could potentially currently sit outside this agreed approach and there is a risk that it would create inequity of access for Wegovy. We also need to assess the Oviva Wegovy offer to ensure equity of access.
- We are hoping that NHSE will issue guidance soon to all ICBs around Oviva's offer and we will incorporate this with the outcome of our own assessment work to provide you with further guidance.

The information above is intended to provide helpful context when making a referral decision –the decision on the clinical appropriateness to refer rests with GPs as referrers.

### Updated PGD for Mpox vaccine

NHS England (London) has published an updated PGD on its website. This can be accessed [here](#)

If you have any queries, please contact the London Immunisations team via [england.londonimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.londonimms@nhs.net).

#### Action:

- Practices should ensure that any registered healthcare professional who is due to administer vaccinations under this PGD, is made aware of this updated version.

### SEL Joint Medicines Formulary RAG ratings

There have been reports of confusion with regards to prescribing AMBER 2 drugs on the [SEL medicines formulary](#).

Please see below the definition for AMBER 2 drugs, whereby stabilisation may not always be required prior to prescribing in primary care.

Status	Description
AMB 2	Initiation by a specialist, then continuation in primary care under an individual management plan. In some cases, stabilisation for a specified time may be required and this will be detailed on the formulary or in the IMOC formulary recommendation.

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### Ratified IMOC guidance and decisions

- **Ryaltris**<sup>®</sup> (olopatadine hydrochloride and mometasone furoate) has been approved in adults and children from 12 years for moderate to severe seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis as **GREEN**. Restricted to use where a combination of oral antihistamines and nasal corticosteroids have failed.
- A new [SEL Decline of prescribing letter template](#) for patients is now available.
- **Lyumjev**<sup>®</sup> (insulin lispro) for the management of diabetes mellitus in adults has been approved as **AMBER 2**.
- **Dymista**<sup>®</sup> (azelastine hydrochloride and fluticasone propionate combination nasal spray) has been updated in line with the publication of [SEL Acute Provider Collaborative's Ear, Nose and Throat interface guidelines](#)
- The SEL enoxaparin prescribing in primary care guideline has been updated to reflect changes in low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) prescribing within SEL and introduce **Inhixa**<sup>®</sup> as the LMWH/enoxaparin preferred brand of choice.
- The SEL Psoriasis Biological Treatment Pathway for adults has been updated.
- **Fiasp**<sup>®</sup> (insulin aspart) for the management of diabetes mellitus in adults has been updated to reflect that **Lyumjev**<sup>®</sup> (insulin lispro) is also now available on the SEL adult Formulary.
- **Ustekinumab** has been updated to include a generic statement advising that biosimilar products are now available and must be prescribed by brand.

### Adult and Paediatric Nutrition Prescribing Guidelines

The South East London [Adult Malnutrition and ONS Prescribing](#), along with the [Paediatric prescribing of hypoallergenic formulary](#) guidelines have been updated on the SEL ICS website.

#### Key updates in the adult guidelines include:

- Summary guideline with key recommendations
- Section on sustainability
- Section on bariatrics and obesity
- New & updated patient resources ([300kcal booster diet sheet](#), [Food First for Plant-Based, Vegan and Vegetarian Diets](#) and [Recipe Videos](#))
- Updated referral forms for local services
- Updated extended ONS product reference guide including up-to-date pricing

#### Key updates in the paediatric guidelines include:

- Age of ceasing hypoallergenic formula is now 12 months
  - Option to 'step-down' from amino acid to extensively hydrolysed formula (based on clinician judgement)
  - Updated section on shop-bought plant-based milk
  - Updated Allergy focussed clinical history form
  - New supporting SOP for private prescription requests
  - New section on non-validated tests for CMA
  - Updated referral information for local services
  - Updated product reference guide formatted in price order
- If you have any queries, please contact the prescribing support dietitians at: [gst-tr.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net)

# MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

## 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:

- [Isosorbide mononitrate \(Nyzamac® SR 60mg\) modified release capsule](#) – 6 September to 8 November 2024
- [Isosorbide mononitrate \(Monomil® XL 60mg\) modified release tablet](#) – 6 September 2024 to 17 January 2025
- [Isosorbide mononitrate \(Monomax® XL 60mg\) modified release tablet](#) - 6 September to 17 January 2025 **updated**
- [Ramipril 2.5mg tablets](#) - 6 August to 15 November 2024
- [Creon 25000 gastro resistant capsules](#) where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than 1 month's supply - 24 May 2024 to 22 November 2024
- [Creon® 1000 gastro resistant capsules](#) where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than 1 month's supply - 24 May 2024 to 22 November 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 Trandate® (labetalol) 50mg tablets
- Tier 2 MSN for Torasemide 10mg tablets
- Tier 2 MSN for NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens

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

### Medicines Safety Week – 4 to 10 November 2024

The ninth annual #MedSafetyWeek campaign runs from 4 to 10 November 2024. The theme is 'the importance of using medicines in the right way to prevent side effects, and to report side effects when they do occur'.

This year, the focus is on empowering healthcare providers to utilise the [Yellow Card Scheme](#) more actively, contributing to safer medication use and reducing harm from adverse effects. Healthcare providers in SEL are encouraged to take one of the following suggested actions:

#### Propranolol – potential under-recognised risk

A Healthcare Safety Investigation Board report called for greater awareness of patients who may be at an increased risk of using propranolol for self-harm due to co-existing migraine, depression or anxiety.

- Raise awareness that propranolol carries a significant risk of death through overdose in specific at-risk groups.
- Review those on propranolol, especially young people for non-cardiac indications, checking the quantity and suitability based on assessment of suicidality and benefit.

#### Insulin shortages

Hospitalisations due to wrong insulin or insulin devices being issued have been reported in SEL due to several insulins being discontinued or supply disrupted.

Practices are encouraged to complete a search of patients prescribed insulins affected by shortages or

- discontinuations and switch to a suitable insulin alternative ([Fiasp FlexTouch](#), [Tresiba FlexTouch](#), [Insulatard InnoLet](#), [Levemir InnoLet](#), [NovoRapid FlexTouch](#)).
- Ensure everyone initiated on a new device or insulin are counselled on the change to prevent medication errors and ensure ongoing access to insulin.

# MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

## Medicines Safety Advice

The following information is based on recent safety events:

### Look-alike, sound-alike medicines: Clindamycin and clarithromycin

In a recent safety event, clarithromycin was accidentally prescribed for a paediatric patient with MRSA skin infection instead of clindamycin

#### Action for community pharmacies:

- Compare the drug name on the prescription and drug packet

#### Risks of duplicate medicine orders

Practitioners should be vigilant about duplicate prescriptions of medications such as opioids, antiemetics and antibiotics. This may occur when prescribing regular and 'when required' prescriptions

### MHRA Drug Safety Update October 2024

- [Bromocriptine: monitor blood pressure when prescribing bromocriptine for prevention or inhibition of post-partum physiological lactation](#)

A safety review has been conducted by the MHRA

following a Yellow Card report concerning a patient who was taking bromocriptine. The review concluded that blood pressure monitoring of patients prescribed with this drug is essential especially during the first days of treatment.

- [Insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring \(CGM\) equipment: guidance for users on reporting suspected adverse incidents and safety concerns to the MHRA's Yellow Card scheme](#)

We ask healthcare professionals to support new guidance for users of diabetes management equipment, their families, care givers and representatives.

- [GLP-1 receptor agonists: reminder of the potential side effects and to be aware of the potential for misuse](#)
- [Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in September 2024](#)

Healthcare professionals are reminded to inform patients about the common and serious side effects associated with glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RAs).

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

### New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [NICE guideline \[NG148\] Acute kidney injury: prevention, detection and management](#)
- [Technology Appraisal Guidance \(TA1009\) Latanoprost-netersudil for previously treated primary open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension](#)

## Contact Details

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