

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Wegovy® and Saxenda® for Weight Management

The SEL Joint medicines formulary lists Wegovy® and Saxenda® as RED drugs for weight management in overweight and obesity. For advice on Oviva, please see [here](#).

Action for GP practices:

- Any requests for Wegovy® or Saxenda® for weight loss should be referred back to secondary care as per the SEL Joint Medicines Formulary.

Private weight loss management prescriptions

The MHRA has received Yellow Card reports for individuals who have been hospitalised due to suspected adverse drug reactions with GLP-1s when used for weight loss.

Severe dehydration following gastrointestinal adverse drug reactions has been reported, including for individuals who may not meet the prescribing criteria and may have used these medicines inappropriately for weight loss.

Action:

- Patients receiving private GLP-1s for weight loss should be reminded of the adverse effects
- Healthcare professionals should continue to report suspected adverse drug reactions to the Yellow Card scheme

2024-25 seasonal flu vaccine reimbursement

Similar to last year's flu season, 2024-25 flu reimbursement claims are expected to be reviewed. This means you might get asked to submit information to support your reimbursement claims.

Throughout the flu season you should keep records of the vaccines you order, receive and administer. These records are important to enable accurate and timely submission of reimbursement claims.

Hints and tips

- Have a monthly process in place to claim reimbursement and Item of Service fees for administered vaccines by the 5th of the following month. If the number of claims you're submitting for reimbursement is different to the number of claims for Item of Service fees, you must be able to, if requested, confirm why.
- Keep appropriate records and supporting evidence to support your payment claims.

For further information please see [here](#).

Mpox pathway action cards

As part of the NHS response to the outbreak of Clade I Mpox, action cards have been updated in line with the updated information published by UKHSA.

The four action cards published are:

- Suspected Mpox Pathway for Patients self-presenting at Emergency Departments
 - Suspected Mpox Pathway for Patients referred to ED for clinical assessment and testing by a Health Care Professional
 - Suspected Mpox Pathway for Patients who contact health services by phone or present at a community-based setting
 - Suspected Mpox Pathway for Patients self-presenting in Primary Care
- Please see link [here](#) for all four Mpox pathway action cards.

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Greenwich Medicines Optimisation QIPP Work Plan 2024/25 – Mitigation Plan

As part of the Greenwich Medicines Optimisation QIPP workplan 2024/25, in order to align to the national priorities of delivering value to the system by providing the highest quality health outcomes for patients at the lowest possible cost, the medicines optimisation team have developed a mitigation plan document to highlight areas of prescribing which can generate quick cost savings and improve patient safety.

Action for GP practices:

- See Attachment 1 for information on the cost-effective switches and EMIS enterprise searches to help support
- Review patients and switch (where clinically appropriate)

Prescribing Sodium Chloride 5% eye ointment

Prescriptions for sodium chloride 5% eye ointment can vary significantly in price depending on the brand dispensed. As a licensed product, the Alissa brand of sodium chloride 5% preservative free eye ointment is a more cost-effective option at £22.50 for a 5g tube, compared to unlicensed specials.

Action:

- Review prescriptions for sodium chloride 5% eye ointment and switch to the Alissa brand – specifying this on the prescription

Stoma Prescribing

When initiating stoma appliances for patients, stoma nurses should provide practices with a [transfer of care letter](#) providing information on the Dispensing Appliance Contractor (DAC) to inform practices they will be receiving prescription requests from the DAC.

When patients are reviewed, a [stoma review letter](#) should be provided to practices detailing the type of stoma, and a full report of the stoma review.

Action:

- Review patients prescribed stoma appliances, ensuring that quantities and items are prescribed in line with the recommendations from the stoma nurse
- Ensure the DAC is the correct one specified in documentation from the stoma nurse
- Ensure patients are aware that they are able to choose where to have their prescriptions dispensed and it is recommended they order their appliances directly from the GP practice

SEL BGTS Guidance & Webinar Requests from Manufacturers

SEL have a [local guideline](#) which provides information on the SEL 'preferred' list of blood glucose and ketone meters, test strips and lancets.

This list is based on the NHSE recommended list. Within this list, there is no meter or test strip that is placed in order of preference. However, devices and appliances should be chosen based on the type of diabetes, patient clinical needs and functionality requirements.

Manufacturers of these devices may contact practices to discuss their products independently.

These meetings or webinars are not endorsed by or developed in conjunction with the ICB.

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Royal Greenwich Local Drug Information System (LDIS) Panel

In October, Royal Greenwich Public Health published an alert regarding the London drug market and new illegal drugs being made available to drug users.

Any organisations working with drug users are asked to do the following:

- Speak and refer individuals who use drugs to the Greenwich specialist drug and alcohol treatment services. (Adults referred to Greenwich Via on 0300 303 4552. Young people (under 18) to be referred to YPSMS on 020 8921 6907)
- Promote carrying naloxone. Training and kits can be obtained from Via.
- Provide the following guidance to anyone using drugs:
 - Avoid using drugs alone
 - Carry naloxone and be aware that a synthetic opioid overdose may require multiple naloxone doses to be given before someone is revived
 - Avoid all using at the same time - someone needs to be able to call for help and administer naloxone if needed
 - Only take a small amount at first to 'test' the substance
 - Always call an ambulance if someone overdoses
 - Access the Via Greenwich treatment service for support

Please continue to report any intelligence on increased drug-related risks to Greenwich Council – drug.alerts@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

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 \(Monomil® XL 60mg\) modified release tablet](#) – 6 September 2024 to 17 January 2025
- [Creon 25000 gastro resistant capsules](#) where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than 1 month's supply - 24 May 2024 to 23 May 2025
- [Creon® 1000 gastro resistant capsules](#) where supplies are available, but the prescription is for more than 1 month's supply - 24 May 2024 to 23 May 2025

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 Sodium fusidate (Fucidin®) 250mg tablets and fusidic acid (Fucidin®) 250mg/5ml oral suspension
- Tier 2 MSN for Levobunolol (Betagan®) 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free
- Tier 2 MSN for Diclofenac (Voltarol® Ophtha Multidose) 0.1% eye drops
- Tier 2 MSN for Imiquimod (Aldara® 5% and Bascellex® 50mg/g) cream 250mg sachets

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

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)

Webinars

- Biosimilar and key generic medicines – delivering better value on 11 December 2024, 1-2pm. Please see link [here](#) for further information and how to register.

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MHRA Drug Safety Update November 2024

- [MedSafetyWeek November 2024: your Yellow Card report helps prevent future harm to others and improves patient safety](#)
- [Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in October 2024](#)

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

New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [NICE guideline \[NG73\] Endometriosis: diagnoses and management updated](#)
- [NICE guideline \[NG23\] Menopause: identification and management updated](#)
- [NICE guideline \[NG245\] Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management updated](#)

BNF Update

Significant changes

- [Borderline substances](#) - enteral (tube) feeds have been re-organised in a new section called Enteral nutrition
- [Cholera vaccines](#) - updated guidance for immunisation
- [Epimax® ointment and Epimax® paraffin-free ointment](#) - reports of ocular surface toxicity and ocular chemical injury
- [Human papillomavirus vaccine](#) - updated guidance for immunisation
- [Immunisation schedule](#) - updated guidance
- [Poisoning, emergency treatment](#) - updated guidance for paracetamol overdose
- [Posaconazole](#) - important safety information added to highlight that tablets and oral suspension are not directly interchangeable
- [Sacubitril with valsartan](#) - update to dose expression.
- [Sodium valproate](#) - new precautionary advice for males
- [Status epilepticus](#) - updated guidance for management.
- [Valproic acid](#) - new precautionary advice for male patients

Dose changes

- [Human papillomavirus vaccine](#) - update to dosing
- [Levonorgestrel](#) - update to indications and dose for intra-uterine devices

New monographs

- [Eladynos®](#) [abaloparatide] for Osteoporosis in postmenopausal women at increased risk of fractures
- [Emollient creams and ointments, hydrogenated castor oil-containing](#) for Dry skin conditions; for Eczema; for Psoriasis.
- [Pylora®](#) [bismuth potassium with metronidazole and tetracycline hydrochloride] for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication [doses for 140/125/125 mg capsules in combination with omeprazole]; for prevention of relapse of *Helicobacter pylori*-associated peptic ulcers [doses for 140/125/125 mg capsules in combination with omeprazole]

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