



## MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

### Reporting Controlled Drug (CD) Incidents and Concerns

The regional NHS England Controlled Drug Accountable Officer (CDAO) is the CDAO of all organisations that are not considered a “controlled drug designated body” (e.g. community pharmacies; GP practices; dentists; care homes; some substance misuse services; and private ambulance services).

This means that **every** incident involving a controlled drug, regardless of the CD schedule, must be reported to the NHS England CDAO team via an incident report using the following link [www.cdreporting.co.uk](http://www.cdreporting.co.uk).

#### Action:

- Please see Attachment 1 on what to report, how to report and who to report incidents involving CDs to.

### Preferred DOACs in South East London

Generic apixaban (twice daily) and rivaroxaban (once daily) are the preferred DOAC agents for initiation of anticoagulation in South-East London (SEL) for stroke prevention in NVAf and management of VTE. For the latest SEL position statement please see link [here](#).

### Greenwich Primary Care Resources

A new updated version of the Greenwich Primary Care resources now includes local, regional, and national resources and guidelines.

In addition, resources that you can direct patients to have also been added.

The Padlet can be accessed either as a webpage or via the 'Padlet' app, which can be downloaded via the link [here](#).

The aim of the website is to serve as a one-stop shop for clinical staff, including junior doctors, locums and ARRS staff.

Please provide any feedback using the following link: [Greenwich Primary Care Resources content Survey](#)

### Interim Melatonin Optimisation Recommendations

South East London have identified areas within melatonin prescribing that could be more cost-effective.

#### Action:

- Please see Attachment 2 for interim melatonin recommendations
- Review patients on melatonin to determine whether they can be switched to a cost-effective alternative formulation

### Updated information for primary care - government restrictions on use of puberty suppressing hormones (puberty blockers)

On 22 August 2024, NHS England wrote to all GPs in England to provide advice following temporary restrictions on the use of puberty suppressing hormones.

On 11 December 2024, the government's legislation makes permanent restrictions on the use of gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues (GnRHa) used to suppress puberty when part of treating gender incongruence or gender dysphoria in children and young people who are under 18 years of age.

This updated information is intended to support GPs and other primary care team members who may be asked to provide prescriptions for GnRHa.

#### Action:

- Please see Attachment 3 on letter sent to healthcare professionals and the criteria for prescribing GnRHa

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### Optimise Rx – most missed savings

Based on Optimise Rx summary reports, the following switches were identified as the most missed savings in November 2024:

- Omeprazole 20mg/5mL sugar free oral suspension to 10mg or 20mg gastro-resistant dispersible tablets
- Haloperidol 500microgram tablets to haloperidol 5mg/5mL sugar free oral solution
- Metformin 1g tablets to metformin 1g M/R tablets
- DPP4 inhibitors – consider switching to sitagliptin tablets for **new** patients
- Doxazosin 8mg tablets to doxazosin 4mg tablets

#### Action:

- Please review the switches above

### Increased norovirus activity and emergence of GII.17 noroviruses in England during 2024

Norovirus outbreaks can cause considerable disruption and contribute to NHS winter pressures.

Norovirus activity has remained high into the start of the 2024/2025 season and in late spring 2024, genogroup 2, genotype 17 (GII.17) norovirus emerged.

At present there is no indication that GII.17 causes more severe illness, although investigations are ongoing.

#### Action:

- Clinicians are advised to continue to confirm suspected cases/outbreaks as per local procedures and provide advice for norovirus prevention, especially for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, infants and immunocompromised.

### Smart cards for Pharmacies – due to expire

Smartcard Versions 4, 5, & 6 will no longer be supported by NHS Digital and are planning to be removed.

From the end of January 2025, any GEM Plus card (4, 5, 6) will no longer be accepting certificate renewals, stopping the card from being reused. At the end of March 2025, all GEM Plus cards will cease to work completely.

In Preparation for this, the Southeast London Registration Authority (SEL RA) team has been generating reports to show how many of these cards are still in use and will need to potentially re-print. The team will be reprinting some of these cards in advance, however will be limiting this to staff who have actively used their cards in the last 3 months and have a clinical/prescribing role attached their profile.

#### Action for community pharmacies:

- Please contact [ict@selondonics.nhs.uk](mailto:ict@selondonics.nhs.uk) or call 0208 176 5400 for further assistance.

### Oxybutynin 2.5mg/5ml oral solution Class 4 medicines notification

Oxybutynin 2.5mg/5ml oral solution (batch number OXY23001, expiry July 2026) has been issued with a class 4 medicines defect as the patient information leaflet (PIL) in the packaging is out of date, missing important updated information.

#### Action:

- Review the information [here](#) on informing the patient regarding the missing information and providing an up to date PIL if the affected batch is dispensed

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## 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:

- [Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free](#) - 10 December 2024 to 31 January 2025
- [Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free](#) - 10 December 2024 to 31 January 2025
- [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 Cefalexin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspensions, sugar free
- Tier 2 MSN for Insulatard® (isophane insulin, human) Penfill® 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges
- Tier 2 MSN for Coal tar extract (Neutrogena® T/Gel® Therapeutic) 2% shampoo

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

## PrescQIPP Updates

### Bulletins

- [Bulletin 357: Branded mesalazine](#) - preparations are compared to support medicine formulary choice. Resources include oral mesalazine comparison table, audit, text message and patient letter templates.
- [Bulletin 361: Medicines without harm](#) – These resources support the implementation of local campaigns for the World Health Organisation global patient safety challenge, medication without harm.
- [Bulletin 229. Insulin pen needles](#) - The new pen needles bulletin supports the review of pen needles for disposable and re-usable pens for insulin and GLP1 receptor antagonists. It focuses on safety and good value prescribing with a range of resources to support implementation.
- [Bulletin 358. Medicine treatment breaks](#) - This bulletin considers medication that is associated with treatment breaks, also known as drug holidays, and provides suggestions to assist in reviewing medicines and considering treatment breaks.

## MHRA Drug Safety Update December 2024

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

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

## New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [NICE guideline \[NG112\] Urinary tract infection \(recurrent\): antimicrobial prescribing updated](#)

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## Ratified IMOC guidance and decisions

- Dexcom One+, Freestyle Libre 3 and the GlucoRx Aidex transmitter have been approved as **AMBER1** for use in adults with Type 1 diabetes.
- A resource to [support the safer prescribing and dispensing of Continuous Glucose Monitoring \(CGM\) devices](#) has been developed
- Guidance on [self-monitoring of blood glucose in adults](#) has been updated
- The [supply disruption memo](#) for Insulin Fiasp® FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pen has been approved to cover an extended shortage period as supply is expected to continue to be disrupted until September 2025
- The [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary](#) and [paediatric formulary](#) have been updated to include sertraline 50mg/5ml licensed suspension for adults and paediatrics
- The [paediatric formulary](#) has been updated to include azathioprine (Jayempi™) 10mg in 1ml licensed oral suspension for use in paediatrics
- Please find the annual review for the [Terms of Reference of the SEL Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee](#)

## BNF Update

### Significant changes

- [Antibacterials, principles of therapy](#) - update to notifiable diseases reporting
- [Antibacterials, use for prophylaxis](#) - updated guidance on secondary prevention of meningococcal disease and secondary prevention of pertussis
- [Borderline substances](#) - oral nutritional supplements have been re-organised in a new section called Oral nutrition.
- [Co-amoxiclav](#) - update to structure of indications and dose section; tablet dose expression changed to co-amoxiclav (total of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid). **Please also note new drug co-amoxiclav 1g (875/125mg)**
- [Faricimab](#) - new indication and dose for macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion
- [Immunisation schedule](#) - updated guidance for immunisation against influenza and pertussis in pregnancy
- [Lower urinary tract symptoms in males](#) - new guidance
- [Oxytocin](#) - risk of overdose during labour and childbirth
- [Pertussis vaccine](#) - updated guidance for immunisation
- [Topical corticosteroids](#) - update to the list of topical corticosteroid potencies

### Dose changes

- [Ciprofloxacin](#) - indication changed from prevention of secondary case of meningococcal meningitis to prevention of secondary case of meningococcal disease
- [Lithium carbonate](#) - update to dosing
- [Lithium citrate](#) - update to dosing
- [Risankizumab](#) - update to dosing



*The Greenwich Medicines Optimisation Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

## Contact Details

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