

## MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

### Wegovy® and Mounjaro® for weight loss management access in South East London – a further update

**Wegovy®** - Patients who meet the eligibility criteria can only access Wegovy® through referral to a weight management service. There is a limited and protected supply and due to limited availability and capacity of specialist weight management services, there will be a phased implementation of Wegovy®. For further information please see [here](#)

**Mounjaro®** - Patients who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to access Mounjaro® initially through specialist weight management services starting in spring 2025 and through primary care services starting summer 2025. Until then, Mounjaro® will not be available on an NHS prescription for weight loss purposes. For further information, please see [here](#).

### NEW Greenwich Pharmacy First Plus (December 2024 – March 2025)

Greenwich Medicines Optimisation Team and Community Pharmacies are working in collaboration to improve accessibility and support vulnerable patients in accessing medicines during winter months from **December 2024 to March 2025**.

Practices can create an EMIS Local Services referral for the **common 26 selected minor ailments**, where socially vulnerable patients will be provided with professional healthcare advice and when clinically appropriate, over the counter medicines and vitamin D supplements free of charge from participating Greenwich pharmacies.

- Attachment 1 lists information on the 26 minor ailments and patient criteria covered under the scheme;
- Attachment 2 lists the current Greenwich community pharmacies participating to provide the scheme;
- Pharmacy contractors who have not signed up to provide the scheme yet, can do so via an [agreement Form](#);
- For more information on all Pharmacy First Services available in Greenwich, click [here](#).

### Personally administered items (PAD)

A PAD is classed as a prescription item personally administered by a member of the practice team e.g. vaccines, injections, IUDs. Normally these items attract a payment via FP34D or FP34PD, which the practice can submit at the end of the month manually. High-Volume vaccines can now be submitted electronically. Practices are still required to send a paper FP34D or FP34PD submission document to the NHSBSA as normal for other PAD. Practices are encouraged to register your GP practices and individuals to use the MYS portal by completing the [GP access authorisation form](#) and email it to [mys@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:mys@nhsbsa.nhs.uk). Please see the [NHSBSA website](#) for more information.

#### Action:

- To ensure prompt payment please ensure that submissions are made on a monthly basis.

### GP actions when medicines are requested by local acute trusts outside of SEL IMOC recommendations

SEL have produced a document (Attachment 3) detailing the actions GP practices can take when local acute trusts request GPs to prescribe medicines not recommended by SEL IMOC. Please also refer to the [SEL IMOC decline of prescribing letter template](#) for prescribers and patients.

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### Expression of Interest for Prescribers becoming Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs) – Teach & Treat Programme

Prescribers are invited to express their interest in becoming a DPP as part of the London region, *Teach and Treat* programme. The 'Teach and Treat' programme aims to provide community pharmacists with the necessary training and supervision to qualify as independent prescribers as well as upskill current prescribers to become supervisors (DPPs).

To express your interest please complete the EOI form: <https://forms.office.com/e/tKzEWUc7fP>

For more details please contact: [annabel.healey@nhs.net](mailto:annabel.healey@nhs.net), [william.swain3@nhs.net](mailto:william.swain3@nhs.net) or [natasha.lal@selondonics.nhs.uk](mailto:natasha.lal@selondonics.nhs.uk)

### Developing Multisector Trainee Pharmacist Training 2026/27

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust are looking to swap Trainee Pharmacists with partners from community pharmacy or General Practice for the 2026/27 training year. Swaps need to be for a minimum of 13 weeks.

If you are interested in working with Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, please email [richardpudney@nhs.net](mailto:richardpudney@nhs.net) with any questions or to indicate your interest in partnering.

### Detection of fentanyl and Xylazine and the use of THC Vapes

There has been detection of Fentanyl and Xylazine in the Croydon drug supply and an alert from Sutton regarding the use of THC vapes in students.

#### Actions for healthcare professionals:

- Encourage people to access treatment  
Adults: refer to **Greenwich Via, 0300 303 4552**. Website: <https://www.viaorg.uk/services/greenwich/>  
Young people (under 18): refer to **CYPSMS, 020 8921 6907**
- To promote the routine carrying of naloxone and staff attendance in training. For training inquiries and obtaining a kit, contact **VIA Greenwich** at [greenwich@viaorg.uk](mailto:greenwich@viaorg.uk)
- Continue reporting any intelligence on increased drug-related risks by email to [drug.alerts@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:drug.alerts@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

### MHRA Class 4 Medicines Notification: Rabeprazole sodium 10mg and 20mg gastro-resistant tablets

Bristol Laboratories Limited has informed the MHRA that the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) in the batches listed below for Rabeprazole sodium 10mg and 20mg gastro-resistant tablets do not contain the most up to date safety information.

#### For 10mg tablets

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
LC72047	10/2025	28	4 September 2023
LC74744	02/2026	28	18 October 2023
LC76888	05/2026	28	30 September 2024

#### For 20mg tablets

Batch Number	Expiry Date	Pack Size	First Distributed
LC72045	12/2025	28	8 March 2023
LC75526	05/2026	28	24 August 2023
LC76906	08/2026	28	30 September 2024

#### Action:

- When dispensing the affected batches, please provide a copy of the updated PILs:  
**Rabeprazole sodium 10mg gastro-resistant tablets**  
**Rabeprazole sodium 20mg gastro-resistant Tablets**

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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:

- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 100micrograms/24 hours transdermal patch](#) – 19 December 2024 to 14 March 2025
- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 75micrograms/24 hours transdermal patch](#) – 19 December 2024 to 14 March 2025
- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 50micrograms/24 hours transdermal patch](#) – 19 December 2024 to 14 March 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 Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules
- Tier 2 MSN Xylocaine® (lidocaine) 10mg spray
- Tier 2 MSN Apomorphine hydrochloride (APO-go® PFS) 50mg/10ml solution for infusion pre-filled syringes
- Tier 2 MSN for NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens - **NovoRapid® FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens are out of stock until late February 2025 and will subsequently be discontinued from March 2025.**
- Tier 2 MSN for Estradiol (Estradot® ) 50micrograms/24 hours, 75micrograms/24 hours, and 100micrograms/24 hours transdermal patches
- Tier 2 MSN for Prednisolone 20mg/100ml rectal solution
- Tier 2 MSN for Isosorbide mononitrate 10mg, 20mg and 40mg tablets (immediate-release)

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

## Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)

### Webinars

- Biosimilar and key generic medicines – update on 13 February 2025 1-2pm. Please see link [here](#) for further information and how to register.
- Personalising evidence-based medicine to reduce polypharmacy on 11 February 2025 1-2pm. Please see link [here](#) for further information and how to register.

## PrescQIPP Updates

### Bulletins

[Bulletin 356 : Stopping over-medication of psychotropic drugs](#) - This bulletin includes guidance on the review and withdrawal of inappropriately continued psychotropic medication.

## New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [NICE guidance \[NG247\] Maternal and child nutrition: nutrition and weight management in pregnancy, and nutrition in children up to 5 years](#)
- [NICE guidance \[246\] Overweight and Obesity management](#)
- [Technology Appraisal guidance \[TA1026\] Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity](#)

# MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

## MHRA Drug Safety Update January 2025

- [GLP-1 and dual GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists: potential risk of pulmonary aspiration during general anaesthesia or deep sedation](#)  
Healthcare professionals should be aware of the risk of pulmonary aspiration in patients who undergo surgery or procedures with general anaesthesia or deep sedation.
- [Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in December 2024](#)  
A summary of recent letters and notifications sent to healthcare professionals on medicines and medical devices.

## BNF Update

### Significant changes

- [Bromocriptine](#) - monitor blood pressure for prevention or inhibition of post-partum physiological lactation.
- [Methenamine Hippurate](#) - updated prescribing information
- [Urinary-tract infections](#) - updated guidance on recurrent UTI prophylaxis, fluoroquinolones and lower UTI treatment
- [Cefotaxime](#) - removal of indication and dose for emergency treatment of suspected bacterial meningitis or meningococcal disease, before urgent transfer to hospital, in patients who cannot be given benzylpenicillin
- [Ceftriaxone](#) - update to indications and dosing for pre-hospital treatment of suspected bacterial meningitis and meningococcal disease.
- [Central nervous system infections, antibacterial therapy](#) - updated guidance on management.
- [Chloramphenicol](#) - updated monitoring advice.
- [Dexamethasone](#) - update to dose advice for adjunctive treatment of suspected bacterial meningitis.
- [Diabetic foot infections, antibacterial therapy](#) - updated guidance on fluoroquinolones.
- [Gastro-intestinal system infections, antibacterial therapy](#) - updated guidance on fluoroquinolones.
- [Glatiramer acetate](#) - anaphylactic reactions may occur months to years after treatment initiation
- [GLP-1 receptor agonists](#) – potential side effects and misuse
- [Mavacamten](#) - pre-treatment screening advice on genetic testing for treating symptomatic obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.
- [Medical emergencies in the community](#) - update to antibacterials for suspected bacterial meningitis and meningococcal disease.
- [Medroxyprogesterone acetate](#) - risk of meningioma and measures to minimise this risk.
- [Respiratory system infections, antibacterial therapy](#) - updated guidance on fluoroquinolones.

### Dose changes

- [Epipen® 0.3mg and 0.15mg](#) - update to body-weight ranges
- [Jext® 150/300microgram](#) - update to body-weight ranges.
- [Cefotaxime](#) - removal of intramuscular route for severe susceptible infections due to sensitive Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, and meningitis.
- [Ceftriaxone](#) - update to body-weight ranges and indications and dosing for meningitis and meningococcal disease
- [Fluconazole](#) - update to indications and dosing.

## Contact Details

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