

# NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

## November 2023

### Updates for Primary Care Across North East London

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## Primary Care Guidance for prescribing and supplying Inclisiran (Leqvio®)

Inclisiran has been approved for use in NHS North East London as an option for treating patients over the age of 18 years with established cardiovascular disease and LDL cholesterol  $\geq 2.6$ mmol/L.

Prescribers in primary care can initiate inclisiran in line with [NICE TA733](#). Should prescribers need clarification or further support, this can be sought through advice from a specialist lipid clinic through Advice and Guidance. Where treatment has been initiated in secondary care, ongoing maintenance should be continued in primary care. To support practices with the new inclisiran pathway, the ICB are working with local training hubs to deliver additional training to primary care on lipid optimisation over the coming months.

Inclisiran is administered as a subcutaneous injection by a healthcare professional (who is trained to administer injections), it should therefore be prescribed in primary care as a personally administered item. Practices can purchase stock directly from the wholesaler AAH using AAH Point or calling the customer care team on 0344 561 8899. Alternatively, it can be prescribed on an FP10 prescription.

Practices purchasing inclisiran from AAH should submit claims using the monthly FP34D form to NHS BSA. In this case practice's will be reimbursed their drug costs and a personally administered drug fee via their FP34D claim. Practice's using FP10 prescriptions to obtain inclisiran can still use the FP34D form to claim for the personally administered drug fee only.

Please refer to and familiarise yourself with the Primary care guidance for prescribing and supplying inclisiran which is available on the NEL ICB website and can be found [here](#)

## Prescribing Quality & Efficiency Scheme (PQES)

1. **Save the date:** As part of the 2023/24 PQES, the educational forum has been scheduled for **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023** at 12.30pm till 2pm. This meeting will be hosted by the CEPN shortly. Further details to register will be emailed out to practices.

### 2. Suggestions for the 2024/25 Prescribing Quality and Efficiency Scheme

The NEL Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team is currently contacting stakeholders to obtain feedback and identify areas of primary care prescribing/medicines optimisation to consider for inclusion in the 2024/25 Prescribing Quality and Efficiency Scheme (PQES).

Please could practices share medicines related areas that they would like to be considered by completing this webform [linked here](#) preferably by **10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**.

## Simple cost-effective prescribing changes

### Metformin 1g tablets

A prescription for 28 metformin 1g tablets costs £54.93, whereas 2 x 28 metformin 500mg tablets costs £1.42. A total of 418 patients were prescribed metformin 1g tablets across NEL amounting to a spend of £255,243.03 in the 12 months to July 23. If all patients were switched to metformin 500mg tablets this would save NEL £248k annually.

**Action for practices:** please review metformin 1g tablet prescribing and swap to metformin 500mg tablets (£0.71 for 28 tablets) (accept Optimise Rx swap message). Practices can also consider metformin 1g modified-release tablets (£2.53 for 56 tablets) as another suitable alternative.

## Colesevelam- Special Container Re-Classification to prompt prescriber quantity review

From April 2023 'special container status' was applied to Colesevelam 625mg tablets. Special container status is applied where it is not practical to split an original pack, for example where the product is sterile or hygroscopic. Colesevelam 625mg tablets will now be supplied as a pack size of 180 tablets. Data from April 2023 to July 2023 has shown that whilst patient numbers remain the same the quantity prescribed and cost have significantly risen. Colesevelam dose ranges from 1.25–3.75 g daily in 2–3 divided doses for bile acid malabsorption. This equates to 2-6 of the 625mg tablets daily. Hence an original pack should last 3 months at the low-end dose range and one month at the high-end dose range.

**Action for practices:** Ensure quantities of colesevelam are prescribed in multiples of 180 and review the intervals for repeat prescriptions to avoid over ordering and/or prescribing.

## National Supply Shortages of medicines for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

The Department of Health and Social Care has confirmed that there is a national supply shortage of the medications used for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The shortage of these medicines has been caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increase in global demand. The supply disruptions are expected to resolve between October and December 2023.

The current availability of different medication is fluid as the situation continues to change. Different strengths and preparations may be available at various times between now and December 2023.

To support clinicians, a memo and patient information leaflets has been jointly produced by the NEL Mental Health Trusts and ICB to support prescribers and patients. The key message is to continue with the current prescription where possible; and only where unavoidable should changes should be made in dose or formulation in line with the product availability.

The resources which include the following can be found on the intranet here: [ADHD – North East London \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

- ADHD Medication Shortage Memorandum
- ADHD medication shortages 2023: Information for patients and families
- ADHD Medication Shortage Information: Easy Read
- National ADHD Medication Shortages: Information for Education settings and Social Care

**NPSA alert:** [linked here](#)

## Glucagon like Peptide-1 receptor agonists supply issues

Due to the national continuing shortage of glucagon like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) supplies of some GLP-1 RA preparations may be intermittent or exhausted. As such, the national advice is as follows:

- GLP-1 RA should only be prescribed for their licensed indications: **do not prescribe for weight management.**

Wegovy® has been approved by NICE for weight management- **but this should be ONLY be done via tertiary services and not within primary care.**

- Do not initiate new patients on GLP-1 RAs for the duration of the shortage
- Do not switch patients to an alternative and available GLP-1 RA
- Proactively identify patients established on affected GLP-1 RAs and consider prioritising for review based on the criteria set out in the NICE and local clinical guidance and discuss stopping treatment with patients who have not achieved treatment targets as per NICE CG28. An adequate metabolic response is defined as:
  - a reduction of at least 11 mmol/mol [1.0%] in HbA1c, and
  - weight loss of at least 3% of initial body weight in 6 months
- Do not double up a lower dose preparation where a higher dose preparation of GLP-1 RA is not available
- Do not prescribe excessive quantities; limit prescribing to one-month supply to minimise risk to the supply chain whilst acknowledging the needs of the patient

## World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week: 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week aims to increase awareness of antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy-makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance. Untreatable infections affect everyone. To preserve the efficacy of these critical medicines, we need to act together. Please consider the following actions for World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week

### Action for clinicians:

- Bookmark the new location for the recently updated [Primary Care Antimicrobial Infection Guideline](#), familiarise yourselves with the recommended antibiotics, length of treatments, and additional advice when managing infections in primary care.
- Prescribe a 5-day course of Amoxicillin 500mg capsules as opposed to a 7-day course, wherever indicated, as per our primary care antimicrobial infection guidelines – more information on antibiotic duration can be found [here](#)
- Renew or choose a new pledge on the [Antibiotic Guardian](#) website.
- Refer to '[Finding the Right Words](#)' and [Discussing Back-up / Delayed Antibiotic prescriptions](#) for evidence based approaches to help address patient concerns and maintain satisfaction, reduce re-consultation and reduce inappropriate prescribing.
- The RCGP TARGET '[Treating Your Infection](#)' leaflets for common infections are available in 25 languages and in a pictorial format – consider sharing with your patients
- For further information on WAAW please visit the [UKHSA site](#) to visit some of the resources and toolkits that have been developed for both clinicians and patients.

## End of Life Care (EoLC) Medicines- Commissioned Community Pharmacies in NEL

Following feedback from stakeholders and service users, please find the [link](#) to the list of all Community Pharmacies in North East London commissioned to stock EoLC medicines and in some instances also provide an out of hours (OOH) service. Please circulate this information to all staff in General Practice to familiarise themselves with this information to avoid unnecessary delay in palliative patients obtaining their EoLC medication. If you encounter any issues or wish to feedback on this topic, please send an email to: [nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net)

In addition, there are also some Boots pharmacies that stock EoLC not included in the link above but can access their operational hours and location by clicking this [link](#).

## Contact Details and Additional Resources

### CONTACT DETAILS

NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team (PMOT)

For prescribing and medicines enquiries:  
[nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net)

For all enquires, reporting concerns or incidents relating to Controlled Drugs

[england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net](mailto:england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net)

Report CD incidents using the national reporting tool  
[www.cdreporting.co.uk](http://www.cdreporting.co.uk)

### RESOURCES

For Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Team Resources

<https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/>

For Medicine Supply Shortages

[Click here](#) for SPS Medicines Supply Tool which offers up-to-date information on Medicines Shortages, provided by DHSC and NHSE/I.

[Register](#) with SPS free-of-charge to access.

For PGD Updates

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – [click here](#)  
SPS – [click here](#)  
NHS England (NHSE) – [click here](#)

#### For your information:

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