

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

February 2024

Updates for Community Pharmacy

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1. MHRA Safety Alert: Fluoroquinolone antibiotics

In January 2024, the MHRA updated the indications for all systemic fluoroquinolones to state they should only be used when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate. Situations when other antibiotics may be considered to be inappropriate may include:

- when there is resistance to other first-line antibiotics recommended for the infection
- other first-line antibiotics are contraindicated in an individual patient
- other first-line antibiotics have caused side effects in the patient requiring treatment to be stopped
- treatment with other first-line antibiotics has failed

Please see [here](#) for the full details of the alert.

2. Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) for Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a MSN for Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials.

Full details of the MSN can be found [here](#)

- Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid is in very limited supply with a resolution date to be confirmed.
- Unlicensed supplies of salbutamol nebuliser liquid have been sourced however, lead times for delivery vary based on strength and supplier. Details of suppliers can be found in the MSN
- Whilst there are alternative beta2-agonists for nebulisation available, they cannot support an increase in demand.

Actions for Practices

When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:

- Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
 - salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml (or 2.5mg/3ml) and 5mg/2.5ml (or 5mg/3ml) nebuliser liquid (imported)
- Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: “**special order**”.
- Liaise with local community pharmacy to ensure unlicensed stock is available for known patients.

Additional Actions for Community Pharmacy

- Liaise with GPs of known patients on salbutamol nebuliser liquid to ensure stock is ordered in a timely manner due to the lead time.
- Place urgent orders now for unlicensed imports of salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5ml nebuliser liquid.
- Due to lead times, do not wait for licensed supplies to be exhausted before placing orders for imports.

3. NEL Formularies and Guidelines Update

- **Calcium and vitamin D Preparations for osteoporosis**
 - NEL wide [guidelines](#) have a range of preparations, including those to suit vegetarians and patients with various allergies.
- **Type 2 diabetes guidelines (update)**
 - These [guidelines](#) have been updated to include information on tirzepatide. Tirzepatide is now classified as Amber with no shared care, i.e. can be initiated by or on recommendation of a specialist in diabetes. Alternatively, this can be initiated by a primary care prescriber with specialist knowledge / training in line with the NEL Guidelines for the Management of Type 2 Diabetes.
- **Blood glucose test strips guidelines (update)**
 - Updated [guidelines](#) in line with NHSE recommendations.
- **Oral contraceptive formulary**
 - This NEL [formulary of oral contraceptives](#) supports the cost-effective prescribing and supply of oral contraceptives in GP practice and from community pharmacy settings via the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service. It lists the preferred choices of oral contraceptive preparations. Please note, this will be updated as further work is undertaken on the formulary.
- **Rimegepant (Vydura®) for treating migraine**
 - This is approved for prescribing in hospitals [Hospital Only status]
 - A NEL migraine pathway is currently under development.
- **Empagliflozin for chronic heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF)**
 - Empagliflozin is approved for prescribing in NEL as an Amber status drug. This can be initiated by or on recommendation of a cardiology specialist.

4. Webinar - Personalised Prescribing: Pharmacogenomics from a Primary Care Perspective

Genetic variants in an individual can be tested to predict the likelihood of a particular drug being therapeutically effective. Genetic variants can also predict treatment likelihood causing unintended harm from an associated Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs). The study of how genes affect a person's response to drugs is known as pharmacogenomics.

Increasingly, genomic testing is becoming embedded in clinical practice and informing care & treatment decisions. Pharmacogenomics will facilitate and support clinical prescribing decisions in primary care where largest proportion of prescribed medication in the NHS takes place.

To find out more, join this educational session on **Wednesday 13th March from 12pm till 1pm via Microsoft Teams**. Register using this [registration link](#). This session will be recorded.

5. Webinar - Polypharmacy Master Class

Date: 29th February 2024 1.00-2.30pm. Pre-booking required

Audience: GPs, Pharmacists, Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs), Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs), Non-Medical Prescribers

The aims of the session include:

- Supporting primary care prescribers in effective decision-making around deprescribing where clinically appropriate.
- Outlining some of the clinical resources and tools available to support prescribers in conducting structured medication reviews (SMRs).

For more information including Speakers List and to Book please use this [Link](#)

6. PrescQIPP Resources for Clinicians

Upcoming PrescQIPP clinical master class webinars:

Clinicians may find the monthly upcoming webinars (1-2pm)

Date	Webinar
26 th February 2024	Digital CBT for Insomnia
27 th February 2024	Evidence based Prescribing in Eating disorders

To view previous webinars please click on this link: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/clinical-masterclasses/>

Latest PrescQIPP Bulletins:

- [Bulletin 336. Reducing opioid prescribing in chronic pain](#)
- [Bulletin 337 – Male sexual dysfunction](#)
- [Bulletin 238 updated - Prescribing on the NHS following a private consultation](#)

Not registered yet? You can register free of charge to access PrescQIPP resources via the following link: <https://www.prescqipp.info/login/> (please select “ICS North East London” as the organisation).

7. Contact Details and Additional Resources

CONTACT DETAILS	
NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team (PMOT)	For prescribing and medicines enquiries: nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net
Controlled Drugs - all enquires, reporting concerns or incidents relating to CDs	england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net Report CD incidents using the national reporting tool www.cdreporting.co.uk
RESOURCES	
Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Team Resources	https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/
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.
PGD Updates	UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – click here SPS – click here NHS England (NHSE) – click here