

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

February 2024

Updates for Primary Care across North East London

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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. Pharmacy First Scheme

[On 31 January 2024, the NHS Pharmacy First advanced service launched](#), enabling community pharmacists to complete episodes of care for patients, without the need for the patient to visit their general practice. Pharmacy First incorporates the previous Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) but now also enables community pharmacies to manage patients for seven common conditions, following specific clinical pathways. Pharmacy First consists of three core elements:

- urgent medicine supply (NHS 111 referral only)
 - minor illness (referral* only)
 - clinical pathways consultations (referral* and walk-in)
- *Referrals being through General Practices, NHS hospital Emergency Departments and NHS 111

[FAQs about the service](#) and [clinical pathway explainer videos](#) can be accessed via Community Pharmacy England. [More information for community pharmacy, general practice and ICBs is available in this letter published on 31 January 2024.](#)

Referrals from General Practice

General practice staff should continue to refer using the same processes as for CPCS. EMIS practices can send Pharmacy First referrals to a local pharmacy of the patient's choice via the [Local Services button in EMIS](#). **The Pharmacies listed in Local services are providing Pharmacy First.**

SystemOne practices can similarly send referrals via the [PharmRefer platform](#).

Please refer to NEL GP IT Tips on Pharmacy First referrals:-

[Tip 390 Bulletin -Create referral Using Local Service Option \(Pharmacy First\).pdf](#)

For the first two to four weeks of the service launch, GP practices will receive from pharmacies via NHS Mail, Pharmacy First consultation outcomes for their patients. By the end of February 2024, IT systems will have been updated to streamline review by GP practices of the outcome of individual Pharmacy First consultations and addition to the patient record.

Patient choice and Patient communication

At the time of writing this newsletter, over 98% of the 375 Pharmacies in NEL offer Pharmacy First. Patient choice **MUST** be respected and Pharmacy First referrals **MUST** be sent to the pharmacy of the patient's choice. Practices should only display nationally developed posters to promote the service. Practices **should not** display posters or QR codes promoting individual pharmacies.

A national public communications campaign will launch from mid-February 2024, which will encourage the public to access advice and treatment from community pharmacy services for common conditions.

Contacts for further support with queries and implementation on Pharmacy First Support

Support required	Contact Name	PCNs covered	Email address
Queries on Pharmacy First including access to national posters	Yogendra Parmar NEL ICB joint Community Pharmacy Clinical Lead	All NEL PCNs, practices as well as queries from other NEL colleagues	yogendra.parmar@nhs.net
To book face to face training session for general practice staff on implementing Pharmacy First	Abiramme Sarangan Pharmacist, Community Pharmacy NEL	All PCNs in: Barking & Dagenham, Havering Newham plus in City and Hackney the following 5 PCNs:- London Fields, Shoreditch Park and the City Springfield, Well Street Woodberry Wetlands	abi@cpnel.org
	Jaspreet Kaur Pharmacy Technician, Community Pharmacy NEL	All PCNs in Redbridge, Waltham Forest. Tower Hamlets plus the following 3 PCNs in City and Hackney:- Clissold Park, Hackney Downs and Hackney Marshes	Jaspreet@cpnel.org

4. 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.

5. Prescribing Quality and Efficiency Schemes (PQS and PES) update

Upcoming submission deadlines:

Reminder of 2023/24 PQS and PES submission deadlines for March 2024, are tabled below. All work must be submitted by **31st March 2024, no later than 5pm** to nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net

Section	Submission requirements	Template
Patient campaigns, Engagement with local community pharmacy lead, MHRA alerts practice policy.	Practice to submit completed self-declaration form.	Self-declaration form
SGLT2i review	Practice to submit completed review template provided & a summary of learning from the reviews/practice's action plan.	SGLT2i resources and templates
DFM review	Practice to submit completed review template provided & a summary of learning from the reviews/practice's action plan.	DFM resources and templates
Education session	Practice to submit the completed template provided.	PQES education submission template
Learning From Patient Safety Events (LFPSE)	Practice to submit and share with the PMOT at least ONE medication related incident or a near miss incident via the LFPSE online record patient safety events application.	Guidance on how to sign up for LFPSE
MHRA alerts	Practice to submit completed template for the review of MHRA alerts. There is a template for practices who have patients on valproate and another template for practices who do not have valproate patients to identify another MHRA alert to action.	MHRA alert templates.

Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS) and Prescribing Efficiency Scheme (PES) data:

November 2023 data for PQS and PES is published and available to view via [SharePoint](#). Practices are listed alphabetically- scroll down to find your individual practice data.

OptimiseRx data at practice level is also now available so practices can identify missed recommendations: [Click here for data](#). Practices are listed alphabetically- scroll **across** the worksheet tabs to find your individual practice data.

Updated SGLT2i searches:

An updated search has been developed to support practices with identifying more patients that fulfil the requirements of the PES SGLT2i reviews. This search is now available for both

EMIS and SystmOne practices; both are available via the following SharePoint link ([Click here](#)).

Buprenorphine Patches

There have been reports of intermittent supply issues with Buprenorphine brands Rebikel® and Sevodyne® 5mcg, 10mcg, 15mcg and 20mcg. In light of these reports, the Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team will not be including these drug presentations in the practice data that is reviewed when assessing the final achievement within 2023/24 Prescribing Efficiency Scheme.

Please note that there have been no reports of supply issues with any of the strengths of the cost effective Oxycodone brand products Shortec®, Lynlor®, Oxypro® and Oxeltra®. There have also been no reports of issues with supply for the higher strength Buprenorphine brands Bupeaze® and Carlosafine® 35mcg, 52.5mcg and 70mcg. Prescribing of these all these recommended brands will still be expected to reach 70% ,as specified within the 23/24 Prescribing Efficiency scheme ,in order to achieve maximum payment for this part of the scheme.

Click here for [PES](#) final

Click here for [PQS](#) final

6. 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.

7. Webinar – Community Pharmacy Services Update

The NEL Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation team is hosting a webinar to provide an update on current available community pharmacy services provision across NEL. Please register using the link below.

Date and time: Wednesday 6th March 12:30-13:30

Event registration link: [click here](#)

8. 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](#)

9. 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).

10. 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