

# NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

## March 2024

Updates for Community Pharmacy across North East London

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. NEL Formulary and Pathways Update	2
2. Medicine Value update - Omeprazole oral liquids	3
3. Primary Care guidance for prescribing and supplying Inclisiran (Leqvio®)	4
4. Community Pharmacy PCN Leads	4
5. PrescQIPP update	5
6. SPS Update	5
7. Contact Details and Additional Resources	6

## 1. NEL Formulary and Pathways Update

For more information and details, please refer to NEL Primary Care Portal where the Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team hosts the decisions and minutes from the [NEL Formulary and Pathways Group](#).

### A. NEL Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) Guidelines for Adults

NEL Guidelines on the Identification, Treatment and Management of Malnutrition in Adults, including the appropriate prescribing of ONS can be accessed via the Medicines Optimisation Portal [click here](#). These guidelines will support primary care colleagues to assess patients' malnutrition risk and to provide patients with guidance on food-based treatment as first line intervention in the management of adult malnutrition. Where ONS are indicated, the guidelines provide recommendations on which products are included on the NEL formulary.

Additionally, the following patient information resources are also available:

- [Food based treatment](#)
- [Hydration](#)
- [Nourishing drinks](#) and [Nourishing snacks](#)
- [Nutritional supplements](#)

### B. Opicapone tablets for Parkinson's disease

Opicapone tablets are approved as Amber status - primary care can prescribe following specialist **recommendation**.

### C. Position statement for IQoro®

IQoro® neuromuscular training device is non-formulary. IQoro® neuromuscular training device is **not recommended** for prescribing in NEL for the treatment of hiatus hernia and reflux, stroke-related dysphagia and other indications.

## 2. Medicines Value update- Omeprazole oral liquids

Omeprazole oral liquid frequently appears in the top ten Specials Prescribing list across NEL ICB.

At this time of writing, a prescription for Omeprazole 20mg/5mL oral suspension sugar free (150mL) costs **£468.00** whereas omeprazole 20mg (28) dispersible gastro-resistant tablets costs **£13.92**.

**In general, liquid formulations of omeprazole are not recommended for prescribing due to the relatively very high cost:**

Formulation	Price
Omeprazole 1mg/mL oral suspension sugar free (75mL)	£111.00
Omeprazole 10mg/5mL oral suspension sugar free (75mL)	£124.00
Omeprazole 20mg/5mL oral suspension sugar free (75mL)	£234.00
Omeprazole 10mg dispersible gastro-resistant tablets (28 tablets)	<b>£9.30</b>
Omeprazole 20mg dispersible gastro-resistant tablets (28 tablets)	<b>£13.92</b>
Lansoprazole 15mg orodispersible tablets (28 tablets)	<b>£2.94</b>
Lansoprazole 30mg orodispersible tablets (28 tablets)	<b>£4.98</b>

*All prices are correct as of 26 February 2024, Drug Tariff February 2024*

### **Note for Community Pharmacies**

- **You may encounter or see a rise in orodispersible tablets prescribing. This information may facilitate appropriate stock ordering**

### 3. Primary Care guidance for prescribing and supplying Inclisiran (Leqvio®)

Inclisiran is approved for use in NEL as an option for treating patients over the age of 18 with established cardiovascular disease and LDL cholesterol  $\geq 2.6$ mmol/L.

Prescribers in primary care may initiate inclisiran in line with NICE [TA733](#), as required. If prescribers are considering prescribing, they may seek further support from the lipid clinic through advice and guidance. Where treatment has been initiated in secondary care, ongoing maintenance may be continued in primary care with the agreement of the prescriber. To support practices to meet their QOF cholesterol domain targets, the NEL Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Team in conjunction with the NEL training hub delivered a webinar on updates to lipid management which included useful information for clinicians on prescribing inclisiran. The NEL inclisiran pathway, webinar recording, and slides can be found [here](#).

Inclisiran is administered as a subcutaneous injection by an accredited healthcare professional; it should therefore be prescribed in primary care as a personally administered item. Practices can purchase stock directly from the pharmaceutical wholesaler AAH by calling its customer care team on 0344 561 8899. Practices purchasing inclisiran from AAH should submit reimbursement claims to NHSBSA using the FP34D form.

Alternatively, inclisiran can be prescribed on an FP10 prescription. Using this route, practices will not incur drug purchase costs but can still submit reimbursement claims to the NHSBSA for personally administered drug fees using the FP34D form.

### 4. Community Pharmacy PCN Leads

A Community Pharmacy PCN lead is a lead for all the pharmacies in a PCN, who will coordinate relationships and communication between the general practices and the community pharmacies in the assigned PCN. The community pharmacy PCN lead will be a pharmacist working in a pharmacy in the assigned PCN. They can support with local discussions and concerns in relation to newly introduced pharmacy services, such as Pharmacy First, hypertension case finding and oral contraception. The Community Pharmacy PCN lead can further support with messaging about out of stock medication. They may also be able to attend PCN meetings (depending on their locum cover arrangements). New services that a PCN is planning (that potentially impacts on Community Pharmacy) would need to be discussed with the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) and the NEL Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Team as this would be outside of the remit of the Community Pharmacy PCN lead.

For any individual issues that arise between a general practice and community pharmacy - e.g. relating to prescription ordering - should in the first instance, be discussed directly between the individual pharmacy and the general practice.

Practices and PCNs can find the contact details of their Community Pharmacy PCN lead [here](#). For any PCNs where this post is vacant, the practices and PCNs would need to communicate directly with their local community pharmacies. For any questions, please email [nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net)

## 5. PrescQIPP update

**Upcoming PrescQIPP clinical masterclass webinars:** The following monthly upcoming webinars (1-2pm) may be useful.

Date	Webinar
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<a href="#">Insomnia: getting back to better sleep</a>
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<a href="#">The Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes and The Ambition for Remission</a>

Catch up on previous webinars at <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/clinical-masterclasses/>

### **Latest PrescQIPP Bulletins:**

- [Bulletin 268: Improving Medicines and Polypharmacy Appropriateness Clinical Tool \(IMPACT\)](#)
- [Bulletin 335: Care homes - Homely remedies](#)
- [Bulletin 343: Omega-3 fatty acid compounds and other fish oils](#)

**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).

## 6. SPS update

The following upcoming webinars (1-2pm) may be useful.

Date	Webinar
13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<a href="#">Supporting pharmacists with HRT decision making (Part one)</a>
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<a href="#">Supporting pharmacists with HRT decision making (Part two)</a>

### Past webinar events

- MSATS – Safe use of valproate. Recording of this webinar and slides can be accessed here: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/msats-safe-use-of-valproate/>

**Not registered yet?** You can register free of charge to access SPS resources via the following link: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/register/>

## 7. Contact Details and Additional Resources

### CONTACT DETAILS

<p>NEL ICB  <b>Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team (PMOT)</b></p>	<p>For prescribing and medicines enquiries:  <a href="mailto:nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net">nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net</a></p>
<p><b>Controlled Drugs</b> - all enquires, reporting concerns or incidents relating to CDs</p>	<p><a href="mailto:england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net">england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net</a>  <b>Report CD incidents using the national reporting tool</b>  <a href="http://www.cdreporting.co.uk">www.cdreporting.co.uk</a></p>

### RESOURCES

<p><b>Pharmacy &amp; Medicines Optimisation Team Resources</b></p>	<p><a href="https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/">https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/</a></p>
<p><b>Medicine Supply Shortages</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> for <b>SPS Medicines Supply Tool</b> which offers up-to-date information on Medicines Shortages, provided by DHSC and NHSE/I.   <a href="#">Register</a> with SPS free-of-charge to access.</p>
<p><b>PGD Updates</b></p>	<p>UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – <a href="#">click here</a>          SPS – <a href="#">click here</a>          NHS England (NHSE) – <a href="#">click here</a></p>