

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

March 2024

Updates for Primary Care across North East London

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1. Prescribing Quality Scheme and Prescribing Efficiency Scheme (PQS and PES) Reminder

Upcoming submission deadlines

Final reminders for 2023/24 PQS and PES submission deadlines are tabled below.

All work must be submitted by **31st March 2024** to nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net :

PQS Section	Practice Submission requirements	Template
Patient campaigns, engagement with local community pharmacy lead, MHRA alert practice policy	Submit completed self-declaration	Self-declaration form
SGLT2i review	Submit completed review template provided	SGLT2i resources and templates
DFM review	Submit completed review template and summary of learning from the reviews/practice's action plan	DFM resources and templates
Education session	Submit completed template provided of learning taken from event.	PQES education submission template
Learning From Patient Safety Events (LFPSE)	Submit and share with the pharmacy team, at least ONE medication related incident or a near miss incident via the LFPSE. Please submit LFPSE reference number and ensure incident is recorded as a "medication event" on LFPSE.	Guidance on how to sign up for LFPSE
MHRA alerts	Submit completed template for the review & action of MHRA alerts. Practices who do not have valproate patients must have prior agreement with the ICB pharmacy team to identify another MHRA alert to action.	MHRA alert templates

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

December 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. Refreshed data is uploaded onto the portal by the second week of each month.

2. 2024-25 Prescribing Quality Scheme & Prescribing Efficiency Scheme

Prescribing Quality Scheme 2024/25:-The NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation team following discussions at the February NEL System Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Board, have agreed to temporarily pause the implementation of a 2024/25 Prescribing Quality Scheme. This is to enable further discussions with stakeholders with regards to other models of work or projects relating to quality of prescribing that could be resourced with the funding made available for the Prescribing Quality Scheme. We would welcome, from NEL general practices and PCNs, any feedback and suggestions you would like us to consider to develop a new NEL prescribing quality offer.

Prescribing Efficiency Scheme 2024/25:- We plan to launch the 2024/25 Prescribing Efficiency Scheme from April 2024 and will be in contact with all practices next month with more detail on this.

We would like to thank practices for your continued engagement in the current prescribing schemes and your commitment to the medicine optimisation agenda.

3. 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.

4. 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)	£9.30
Omeprazole 20mg dispersible gastro-resistant tablets (28 tablets)	£13.92
Lansoprazole 15mg orodispersible tablets (28 tablets)	£2.94
Lansoprazole 30mg orodispersible tablets (28 tablets)	£4.98

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

Action for practices:

- Review and accept OptimiseRx prompt messages for omeprazole dispersible tablets and lansoprazole dispersible tablets for children (and adults) where appropriate.

5. 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 ≥ 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.

6. 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

7. PrescQIPP update

Upcoming PrescQIPP clinical masterclass webinars: Clinicians may find the following monthly upcoming webinars (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
25 th March 2024	Insomnia: getting back to better sleep
24 th April 2024	The Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes and The Ambition for Remission

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

Upcoming Practice Plus webinar: PCN pharmacists, practice pharmacists and pharmacy technicians may find the following webinar useful.

Date	Webinar
27 th March 2024 (12:45-13:45)	Using a Human Factors approach to explore opioid prescribing processes in general practice

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).

8. SPS update

PCN and practice pharmacists may find the following upcoming webinars (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
13 th March 2024	Supporting pharmacists with HRT decision making (Part one)
24 th April 2024	Supporting pharmacists with HRT decision making (Part two)

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/>

9. Prescriber Codes and Registering with NHS Prescription Services

GPs and Non-Medical Prescribers (NMPs) who prescribe in practices must have a prescriber code registered with the NHS Prescription Services. The prescriber code is unique to the prescriber, indicating the prescriber type (i.e. GP, Nurse, Pharmacist) and for GPs, it also identifies the practice or cost centre. The prescriber code is used by NHS Prescription Services to attribute prescribing data and associated costs to the appropriate cost centre.

It is essential that prescriber codes are linked to the correct practice. Where a prescriber is using an incorrect prescriber code i.e. has moved from one practice to another without informing NHS Prescription Services, their prescribing data and associated prescribing costs may be allocated to the wrong practice. Errors within the prescribing data from NHS Prescription Services are irreversible and often result in complex and resource intensive integrated care board cross-charges to rectify the financial impact of the error.

GPs must inform Primary Care Support England (PCSE) ([Use this link](#)) when they join a practice, to register their details with NHS Prescription Service. PCSE is responsible for notifying NHS Prescription Services of GPs joining/ leaving / changing roles in practices. NMPs must inform the ICB's Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Admin Team Administration Team on: nelondonicb.medicinesoptimisationenquiries@nhs.net when joining/ leaving / changing roles in NEL practices

A NEL Non-Medical Prescriber Policy for GP Practices to manage prescriber changes, is in development by the Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team. This will provide more detail of the process for providing up to date and accurate details to the NHS Prescription Services.

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](#)