

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

May 2024

Updates for Primary Care across North East London

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1. Launch of 2024/25 Prescribing Efficiency Scheme (PES)

We are pleased to announce that the Prescribing Efficiency Scheme (PES) for 2024/25 was officially launched on 24th May 2024. Please follow the [link](#) to the GP portal for full details and the associated launch webinar.

The PES for 2024/25 is in two parts and no submissions are required from practices.

- Part One: Review prescribing of blood glucose testing strips (BGTS) to be in line with NHSE and NEL ICB guidance/recommendations.
- Part Two: Work with your NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team to deliver a practice specific prescribing Cost Improvement Plan (CIP).

This year's PES is designed to be personalised to each practice to ensure CIPs reflect individual practices' current prescribing patterns and savings opportunities. As always, the NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team will work closely with practice staff and PCNs to provide the support needed to help deliver the targets set within the PES. Your place lead medicines optimisation pharmacist is looking forward to your initial meeting to discuss the new and innovative approach to this year's PES.

We are working with selected 3rd party providers (funded via pharmaceutical company donations) to provide practices and PCNs, with extra pharmacy workforce capacity to support the delivery of the 2024/25 PES. This offer is being made to all NEL practices, who will be free to decide if and how they use this any additional support.

Please contact your NEL ICB place lead medicines optimisation pharmacist if you have any questions nelondonicb.medicinesoptimisationenquiries@nhs.net

2. NEL Formulary and Pathways Update

Please see table listing the items approved by the North East London Formulary and Pathways Group, and relevant additional information to support practices.

Approved item	Additional information
Shared care guideline: Azathioprine and mercaptopurine for patients within adult services (non-transplant indications)	NEL-wide shared care guideline to support the prescribing and monitoring of azathioprine and mercaptopurine for non-transplant indications. This document supersedes all legacy shared care guidelines for adults, in-use for azathioprine and mercaptopurine.
GLP-1 RA shortage protocol V3	Protocol updated to include the latest national recommendations (released on 18/03/2024)
Calculating renal function (creatinine clearance) when monitoring direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) for safe and effective dosing of patients	These documents have been produced to support primary care on prescribing of DOACs for stroke prevention in NVAF.
DOAC for use in Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation (NVAF) a) Position statement: Preferred direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) for prevention of stroke and systemic embolism b) Direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) initiation and monitoring guidance template	

3. North East London GLP-1 RA Shortage Protocol (for T2DM patients)

- **GLP-1 RA shortage protocol for Type 2 Diabetes (update)**
 - The NEL GLP-1 RA shortage protocol has now been updated with revised guidance specified in the [Medicine Supply Notification](#) released on 18th March 2024.
 - The updated NEL GLP-1 RA shortage protocol is available via the following link: <https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/medicines-guidelines-diabetes/>

4. Age UK Spring Newsletter 2024

Please see the Age UK Spring Newsletter 2024 from Redbridge, Barking & Havering: [Age UK RBH - Newsletter Spring 2024.pdf](#)

5. Serious Shortage Protocol – Creon® Capsules

A national Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP) has been issued for Creon® 10000 capsules and Creon® 25000 capsules.

The SSPs will restrict the amount of these medicines that can be provided to patients to one-month's supply. Under the SSP regulations, patients who receive less medicine when supplied in accordance with these SSPs will not have to pay prescription charges.

Both SSPs came into effect on Friday 24th May 2024, and are scheduled to come to an end on Friday 22nd November 2024.

Please refer to the dedicated [SSP web page](#) on the NHS Business Service Authority (BSA) website for further information.

6. Influenza Season 2023/24: Ending the Prescribing and Supply of Antiviral Medicines in Primary Care

The most recent surveillance data from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) indicated that the circulation of influenza in the community has returned to baseline levels.

In accordance with NICE guidance and Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts; Prescription of drugs etc.; Regulation 2004), commonly known as the Grey List or Selected List Scheme (SLS):

- GPs and other prescribers working in primary care should no longer prescribe antiviral medicines (including neuraminidase inhibitors) for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza on an FP10 prescription form.
- Community pharmacists should no longer supply antiviral medicines in primary care on presentation of an FP10 prescription form.

This does not impact on prescribing of antiviral medicines in hospitals, where prescribing can continue in line with relevant guidelines.

Please refer to the [alert document](#) which provides information of arrangements for prescribing antiviral medicines for localised community outbreaks of influenza during the 'out of season' period.

7. Lisdexamfetamine – Medicines Supply Notice

The DHSC has released a Medicines Supply Notice (MSN) for lisdexamphetamine. Please see [MSN 2024_051 Lisdexamfetamine Elvanse capsules.pdf](#)

Although it implies national stocks may be available, please note that local supply chains may still be affected.

First port of call for stock information remains at the SPS [Prescribing available medicines to treat ADHD – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Although it does suggest unlicensed sources could be available, please note the [GMC ethical guidance on prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), when prescribing an unlicensed medicine and lead times for supply may vary greatly.

Please see local advice for managing ADHD medicines:

- National supply shortages of medicines for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) resources [ADHD – North East London \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Adult ADHD SCG [Shared Care Guidelines – Mental Health – North East London \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

8. PrescQIPP Update

a. Latest PrescQIPP Bulletins:

Eye preparations	Guidance on prescribing, cost-effective treatment options and self-care for glaucoma and dry eye.
Antiepileptic drugs	Includes new valproate safety information, and support to appropriately switch antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) to safer or less costly alternatives.
Silk garments	Supports the implementation of NHS England (NHSE) guidance on items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care.
Low priority prescribing	Updated guidance which covers the NHSE Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care guidance and provides general advice with implementation resources.

b. Clinical Masterclass webinars:

Please see list of the upcoming webinars which clinicians may find useful. Click on the link to register:

5 th June 2024 1-2pm	Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM)
16 th July 2024 1-2pm	Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) – National Action Plan (NAP) for success in AMS

Missed a previous Clinical Masterclass webinar? [Click here](#) to watch back.

c. Virtual Professional Group (VPG) meetings:

Regular [VPG meetings](#) are held where subscribers can connect and share experiences on a range of important topics and is a great opportunity to build relationships with peers. Please see list of VPG meetings which clinicians may find useful, and click on the link to register:

4 th June 2024, 1-2pm	Pharmacy Technicians
19 th June 2024, 1-2pm	Antimicrobial Stewardship
4 th July 2024, 1-2pm	Nutrition

Leadership at Lunch sessions:

Leadership expert and coach Sarah Massie delivers lunchtime sessions (**1-2pm**) covering fundamental elements and considerations of leadership whether for projects, teams or systems. Sessions are suitable for any health care colleagues who is already leading or aspires to lead in any capacity. [Click here](#) to register for free. Recordings from previous sessions are accessible [here](#). Upcoming dates are listed below:

- Friday 7th June 2024
- Friday 12th July 2024

Not registered with PrescQIPP yet? You can register free of charge to access PrescQIPP resources by [clicking here](#). Please select "ICS North East London" as the organisation.

9. Contact Details and Additional Resources

CONTACT DETAILS

NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team

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.

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

[Click here](#) for SSPs and supporting guidance.

PGD Updates

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