

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

June 2024

Updates for Community Pharmacy across North East London

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1. TARGET

TARGET stands for Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education and Tools. It is a toolkit designed to support primary care clinicians to champion and implement antimicrobial stewardship activities.

Developed by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Primary Care (ASPIC) Group, TARGET is the central resource to help primary care healthcare professionals and commissioning organisations improve antibiotic prescribing.

A number of resources are available on the website [TARGET antibiotics toolkit hub | RCGP Learning](#) to support antimicrobial stewardship in your practice, including audit templates and tools to support reviewing patients on long term and repeat antibiotics, self-assessment checklists, action planning templates and posters and videos for clinical waiting areas as well as 'Treating Your Infection' leaflets for common infections which are available in 25 languages. The available resources can also be used to support CPD and revalidation requirements.

We encourage all community, general practice and PCN pharmacists as well as other prescribing leads to [Sign up](#) to the Target quarterly newsletter.

NEL Management Of Infection Guidance can be viewed [Here](#)

2. Reformulation of Aymes Complete[®] (now known as Actagain 1.5 Complete[®])

Aymes have reformulated Aymes Complete and this Oral Nutritional Supplement (ONS) product will now be known as Actagain 1.5 Complete. Actagain 1.5 Complete was launched on the 1st June 2024.

Aymes Complete is a ready to drink milkshake style ONS on the NEL formulary as a second line option to powdered ONS (for patients who cannot tolerate powdered ONS). This formulary status is extended to remain for Actagain 1.5 Complete.

The key changes in this reformulation are that there is an increase to 14g of protein and an increase to 5 micrograms of vitamin D per 200mL bottle. The datasheet for the nutritional analysis of Actagain 1.5 Complete will be available [here](#). The price remains the same as Aymes Complete at £1.11 per 200mL serving.

Currently prescribed	Should now be prescribed as	PIP code
Aymes Complete Vanilla	Actagain 1.5 Complete Smooth Vanilla	413-1405
Aymes Complete Strawberry	Actagain 1.5 Complete Strawberry Burst	413-1413
Aymes Complete Banana	Actagain 1.5 Complete Banana Milkshake	413-1397
Aymes Complete Chocolate	Actagain 1.5 Complete Double Chocolate	413-1421
Aymes Complete Starter Pack	Actagain 1.5 Complete Starter Pack	388-6439

The dictionary of medicines and devices list on EMIS and SystmOne will have automatically been updated with this change.

Please review patients who have been prescribed Aymes complete and ensure the appropriate alternative is recommended.

3. OptimiseRx Messages Highlights – Prednisolone tablets

An OptimiseRx message has recently been enabled for general practices to promote the prescribing of Prednisolone 5mg tablets as opposed to 20mg tablets due to cost-effectiveness and to support dose tapering regimen.

This only applies to patients who have been prescribed or initiated Prednisolone 20mg tablets (both branded and generic version). The message will prompt the prescriber to issue the 5mg strength of prednisolone for prescriptions for all doses of prednisolone 5mg or higher.

4. OptimiseRx Messages Highlights – Metolazone

An OptimiseRx message has been enabled recently to general practices for Metolazone.

Metolazone preparations are NOT interchangeable due to differences in bioavailability. In line with the MHRA Drug safety Update (Jan 2023) [MHRA Drug safety update](#) the following messages have been enabled:

- The licensed Xaqua (metolazone) preparation should be prescribed when initiating patients on metolazone and tablets must **not** be divided in quarters.
- The intended brand (Xaqua) MUST be stated for patients who are on 2.5mg or 5mg tablets prescriptions
- The licensed brand (Xaqua) is only available in 5mg strength; please refer to the MHRA alert for patients who require a dose of less than 5mg.

More information on metolazone preparation differences and safety considerations can be found in the [Specialist Pharmacy Service \(SPS, Jun 2023\)](#) update.

5. NEL ICS Pharmacy Workforce Transformation Group

We are conducting a survey for all pharmacy team members across NEL to identify your training needs. We would like this information so that we can understand if the training people want, or need is what is being offered across NEL and if not, how can we facilitate this. Please can you complete this survey by 30/6/24. It shouldn't take longer than 10 mins.

<https://forms.office.com/e/nvLBiiybB9>



6. Medicines Supply Shortage - Quetiapine

Shortage of Quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg, anticipated re-supply date 30th August 2024.

Recommended actions for healthcare professionals:

- Clinicians should not initiate new patients on standard release quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg tablets until the supply issues resolve.
- GPs have been advised to consider prescribing 25mg, 50mg and 100mg tablets, using the largest strength tablet(s) available to provide the required dose; or
- quetiapine XL prolonged-release tablets, adjusting the dose frequency to once daily, counselling patients on the change to formulation and dosing regimen, and to take the dose without food; or
- quetiapine 20mg/ml oral solution, only where tablets are not appropriate ensuring there is no intolerance to the excipients; and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.

Please refer to the [SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#) for further information. (Access to SPS required)

11. PrescQIPP Update

a. Latest PrescQIPP Bulletins:

Avoiding Look Alike Sound alike (LASA)	Guidance on minimising the risk of LASA prescribing errors occurring due to similarities between medicines, which can result in patient harm.
Lidocaine plaster	Support implementation of NHSE guidance on items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care and provides rationale for not initiating lidocaine plasters in new patients, and for current patients to be considered for discontinuation of their prescription for lidocaine plaster.

b. Clinical Masterclass webinars:

16 th July	Antimicrobial Stewardship; National Action Plan (NAP) for success in antimicrobial stewardship (AMS)
14 th August	The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines: Antidepressants, Benzodiazepines, Gabapentinoids and Z-drugs
17 th September	Antipsychotic prescribing in people with dementia

All recordings of previous clinical masterclasses are available for access here: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/clinical-masterclasses/> (PrescQIPP login required)

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.

12. Upcoming webinars – Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)

Managing complexities of medicines use across care boundaries

There are known risks when medicines use crosses boundaries of care. Additional risks are introduced with complexities related to medicines formulation, licensing, availability and, use in specialist populations and conditions.

Measures aimed at reducing the risk of harm related to these complexities, such as standardisation and targeted communications require a collaborative and system wide approach to ensure sustainable safety improvements.

This interactive session is part of the 'Medication Safety Across the System' (MSATS) series aimed at healthcare professionals, working in any sector with a role or passion for medication safety and/or involved in medicines use.

Date & Time: 26th June 2024 12:30-14:00 Online via WebEx

Please register via the [link](#) here if interested.

13. 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](#)