

# NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

## July 2024

### Updates for Community Pharmacy Across North East London

Contents	Page
1. <a href="#">NEL Community Pharmacy Selfcare Advice Service (NEL CPSAS) update</a>	1-2
2. <a href="#">North East London Recommended First Line Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS)</a>	2
3. <a href="#">NEL Formulary and Pathway Update</a>	2
4. <a href="#">Mesalazine (Asacol ®) MR 400mg gastro-resistant tablets - discontinued</a>	3
5. <a href="#">PrescQIPP update</a>	3
6. <a href="#">Specialist Pharmacy Service update</a>	3
7. <a href="#">Contact Details and Additional Resources</a>	4

#### NEL Community Pharmacy Selfcare Advice Service (NEL CPSAS) update

The North East London Community Pharmacy Selfcare Advice Service (NEL CPSAS) went live on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. All approved participating community pharmacies in NEL will be able to provide this service via the NEL CPSAS module on PharmOutcomes.

For participating NEL pharmacies that have yet to sign their Service Level Agreement (SLA), could you please sign your SLA via PharmOutcomes before providing this service.

The SLA is available under the 'Service Support' in the NEL CPSAS module on PharmOutcomes.

Please also note that the ICB's Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation team has published an FAQ document on this service which is available as '**CPSAS FAQs**.' under the 'Other Information and Resources' section on PharmOutcomes – as illustrated.

#### Service Support

- [SLA & Service Specification](#)
- [Patient Information Leaflets](#)
- [NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries](#)

#### Other information and resources

- [CPSAS FAQs](#)

Please kindly refer to this document if you have questions regarding the NEL CPSAS service.

However, if you have a query for which there is insufficient guidance in the FAQ, then please email [nelondonicb.medicinesoptimisationenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.medicinesoptimisationenquiries@nhs.net) .

If you are interested in providing this service and have not signed up, please kindly complete the [form](#) and send an email to [England.lon-pharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:England.lon-pharmacy@nhs.net).

## North East London Recommended First Line Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS)

In line with NHS England (NHSE) commissioning recommendations, the 2024/25 NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme requires practices to prescribe from the following range of BGTS:

Recommended BGTS	May Drug Tariff Price
<b>AgaMatrix Agile testing strips</b>	£ 5.99
<b>CareSens S testing strips</b>	£ 5.45
<b>Contour Plus testing strips</b>	£ 5.95
<b>Finetest Lite testing strips</b>	£ 5.95
<b>Glucofix Tech Sensor testing strips*</b>	£ 5.95
<b>True Metrix testing strips</b>	£ 5.95
<b>GlucoRx Q testing strips</b>	£ 5.45
<b>On Call Extra testing strips</b>	£ 5.20

Reference: [NHS England » Commissioning recommendations following the national assessment of blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets](#)

To support the national Green agenda and reduce unnecessary waste, patients are requested to use existing supplies before ordering new test strips. Patients are advised to return used glucose meters to the manufacturer for recycling/disposal.

Unused glucose meters can be sent to: The InDependent Diabetes Trust (IDDT) PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS. Tel: 01604 622837 email: [tim@iddtinternational.org](mailto:tim@iddtinternational.org) <http://iddt.org/here-to-help/helping-developing-countries>

## NEL Formulary and Pathway Update

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

Approved item	Additional information
<b>Tapentadol modified release and immediate release for pain</b> Harmonisation of formulary status across NEL	<b>Formulary status:</b> Amber specialist initiation throughout NEL
<b>Nefopam for pain</b> Harmonisation of formulary status across NEL	<b>Formulary status:</b> Hospital only throughout NEL

## Mesalazine (Asacol®) MR 400mg gastro-resistant tablets - discontinued

Asacol® is now discontinued in all strengths aside from 800mg MR see **here** for more information

NEL ICB are advising practices to prescribe the formulary first line choice Octasa® which has availability in all strengths. Prescribing as Octasa® will support patient supply following the ongoing discontinuation of Asacol®.

BNF: [Dose equivalence and conversion for mesalazine](#)

There is no evidence to show that any one oral preparation of mesalazine is more effective than another; however, the delivery characteristics of oral mesalazine preparations may vary and should be prescribed by brand to avoid confusion.

## PrescQIPP Update

Upcoming PrescQIPP clinical masterclass webinars:

Pharmacies may find the following monthly upcoming webinars (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
14 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	<a href="#">The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines: Antidepressants, Benzodiazepines, Gabapentinoids and Z-drugs</a>
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<a href="#">Antipsychotic prescribing in people with dementia</a>

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

Recent Practice Plus webinar:

Pharmacies may find the recording of the following webinar useful.

Date	Webinar
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 (12:45-13:45)	<a href="#">Maintaining Competency as a Primary Care Pharmacist/Pharmacy Technician</a>

Upcoming Virtual Professional Groups

Pharmacies may find the following monthly upcoming webinars (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<a href="#">Polypharmacy and deprescribing</a>
24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<a href="#">Pharmacy technicians</a>

**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.

## Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) update

Pharmacies may find the following upcoming webinars (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	<a href="#">Primary care discussions: Heart failure</a>

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

## Contact Details and Additional Resources

### CONTACT DETAILS

NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team (PMOT)

For prescribing and medicines enquiries:  
[nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net)

For all enquires, reporting concerns or incidents relating to Controlled Drugs

[england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net](mailto:england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net)

Report CD incidents using the national reporting tool  
[www.cdreporting.co.uk](http://www.cdreporting.co.uk)

### RESOURCES

For Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Team Resources

<https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/>

For 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.

For PGD Updates

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

#### For your information:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication. Throughout the newsletter, external links are provided to other sites. These links are provided to improve access to information and exist only for the convenience of readers of the newsletter; NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team cannot accept responsibility for their content. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages. This newsletter is not to be used for commercial purposes.