

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

September 2024

Updates for Primary Care Across North East London

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Update to provision of adrenaline autoinjectors (AAI's)

Communication was sent to GP prescribing leads in all practices across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge on 14th August 2024 to provide an important update on the guidance on the provision of AAIs in primary care. Guidance previously issued to practices in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge has been retracted.

The current advice for all clinicians in NEL is as follows:

- 1. Long standing regulatory and clinical advice:** recommends that patients should have immediate access to two AAI(s) due to the possibility of severe allergic reactions requiring more than one dose of adrenaline before emergency services arrives, or in cases of device failure or misplacement of the first injection.
- 2. Availability of AAIs for children:** Children clinically eligible for AAIs must have access to at least two AAIs – in and out of school settings. Schools should always have access to at least two AAI(s) to administer to children in case of anaphylaxis. It is not uncommon for primary schools to request that a pupil's AAIs be left on school premises. However, pupils must still have access to AAIs when travelling to and from school as well as at home or other out of school settings.
- 3. Quantities of AAIs to be prescribed by primary care clinicians:** Parents may therefore ask for up to four AAI(s) (two for the school setting and two for out of school settings that remain with the child/young person). Clinicians can consider reducing this to two AAIs for older children where the prescriber is confident that an older child has become capable of self-administration. Any recommendations to reduce quantities of AAIs supplied must be discussed with the patient or their guardian / carer.

Actions for practices:

Please review your current practice policies relating to patients at risk of anaphylaxis and prescribing of AAI(s) and ensure it is in line with the above recommendations.

Ensure that all clinicians (including locum and support staff) are aware of this update. Any previous CCG guidance that contradicts the above advice must be removed from your practice's pathways, recommendations and other systems/processes in your practice.

Please feel free to contact the Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation team by emailing nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net with any questions you may have on AAI(s).

New NEL EMIS template for Adult Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS)

The NEL Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team, NELFT prescribing support dietitian and Clinical Effectiveness Group (CEG) have jointly developed an EMIS review template, to support clinicians with appropriate ONS prescribing. The template also signposts to relevant resources, including the NEL ONS guidelines, relevant NEL nutrition patient information leaflets, malnutrition screening tools (eg MUST, SANSI), and information on referring patients to NEL dietetic community teams.

Practices can access the template by searching for: **RP NEL Adult ONS CEG v1**. The template can also be accessed via the F12 protocol (for practices that use this method).

A version for SystmOne is in development and will be available soon.

Action for practices:

Clinicians are encouraged to utilise the template when initiating and reviewing ONS in adults. Use of the template will also support practices with the Prescribing Efficiency Scheme.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medication shortages

The NEL ADHD Medication Shortages memo has been updated and is available on the NHS North East London Primary Care Portal. The memo includes updated information for patients and families. Please click [here](#) for further information.

Prescribing Efficiency Scheme (PES) updates

Second Practice Prescribing Visits from the Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team

The Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team will be contacting practices to arrange a second prescribing visit. These second meetings will focus on discussing progress against the individual practice cost improvement plans as well exploring any additional opportunities. A reminder for practices that $\geq 40\%$ of your individual practice cost improvement targets should be realised by 31st October 2024.

Medication supply issues

We are aware that there are national supply issues with some medicines. The impact of these shortages on PES will be reviewed at the end of the financial year and adjustments made where required. Due to the parameters used to calculate saving opportunities, and the temporary nature of the shortages, we are not expecting a significant impact on the scheme.

Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) PES Target

Please note that the PES BGTS target (to achieve $\geq 50\%$ of all BGTS items being prescribed as NHSE recommended BGTS costing $<£6$ per box/50 strips) **does NOT include BGTS for gestational diabetes and does not apply to ketone strips.**

NEL's first line blood glucose meter for gestational diabetes is Agamatrix® Wavesense Jazz Wireless with its associated test strips costing £8.74/50.

BGTS workstream – Type 1 diabetes option

Please note that of the eight NEL BGTS 1st line formulary choices, GlucoFix® Tech test strips are the only suitable option for patients with type 1 diabetes. GlucoFix® Tech test strips are also a suitable 1st line option for patients with type 2 diabetes. Please see here for the list of [recommended meters](#).

For practices who wish to switch patients to GlucoFix® Tech test strips, and the corresponding meter, GlucoFix® Tech GK, the manufacturer can offer support with ordering new meters for this cohort of patients.

For more information, please contact nelondonicb.medicinesoptimisationenquiries@nhs.net or ask your Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist at your second practice visit.

Third party support

A reminder that MORPh and Interface are intermediate, third-party companies providing fully funded clinical pharmacist and or pharmacy technician time to NEL practices, to support PES. These two companies receive donations from multiple pharmaceutical companies to fund the clinician time but follow the ABPI code of practice and the local NEL formulary choices. Their work provides extra capacity for practices whilst maintaining a separation between Pharma and the NHS. There is no transfer of money from pharmaceutical companies to the ICB or to practices.

If your practice would benefit from this offer, please complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) for the preferred company. More information, including EOI forms, on MORPh and Interface can be found on the [GP Portal](#).

Please see [video explaining the service offered by MORPh](#) which can also be found on the [slides introducing the PES for 24/25](#) located on the GP Portal

Please note that Interface is only supporting with the BGTS and pen needles reviews.

MORPh Clinical Services – new opportunities

Please note that practices who have already completed an expression of interest form to MORPh, may be contacted with information on new opportunities, including inhalers, glycopyrronium, oxycodone and buprenorphine patch reviews. Details of these new services can be found on the [GP Portal](#).

These services have been reviewed and discussed with the ICB. The availability of medicines has been confirmed by the manufacturer. As always, the decision to utilise the clinical support to undertake these reviews is entirely at the discretion of the practice. The expression of interest form is available here: [MORPh clinical services](#)

Interface Clinical Services – new opportunities

Please be aware that Interface now offers a pen needle review service. Practices who have completed/undergoing BGTS reviews by Interface may be contacted by Interface and offered the enhanced pen needle review service. Other practices who have completed an EOI for Interface may also be contacted to be offered this new service. The service introduction can be found on the [GP Portal](#).

This service has been reviewed and discussed with the ICB. The availability of the pen needles has been confirmed by the manufacturer. As always, the decision to utilise the clinical support to undertake these reviews is entirely at the discretion of the practice. The expression of interest form is available here: [Interface clinical services](#)

Feedback forms

A reminder that feedback forms for practices to inform of issues relating to PES, provide feedback on third party companies and suggest new savings opportunities, can be found at the following links:

[PES feedback form](#)

[MORPh/Interface feedback form](#)

[New PES ideas submission form](#)

Community Pharmacy Selfcare Advice Service (CPSAS) update

The CPSAS enables participating community pharmacies to supply specific OTC medicines for a range of 24 minor illnesses, without a charge for eligible patients. This only applies when they are referred to the pharmacy from the GP Practice via Pharmacy First Minor Illness on local EMIS service. The only patients who can access CPSAS without a GP referral are those who are homeless, refugees or asylum seekers. Community pharmacies will assess patient's eligibility criteria and enrol them onto the CPSAS service accordingly. Please see full information about this service [here](#).

GP practices will receive two notifications when CPSAS is provided following on a Pharmacy First referral. One notification will be for Pharmacy First where the consultation outcome will be categorised under 'Other', and the reason that will be provided will be 'NEL CPSAS'. The second notification is for CPSAS and this will provide you with details of the medication(s) supplied by the pharmacy. This two-step notification is currently the only way practices can be notified of the outcome of their patients' Pharmacy First and CPSAS consultations whilst avoiding double entry of medicines supplied with its associated risks of discrepancies.

We would like to thank practices for continuing referrals to pharmacies via Pharmacy First. Continued use of Pharmacy First will help alleviate pressure on practices. The availability of the CPSAS will also help reduce the need for patients, referred via Pharmacy First, to return to practices to request free over-the-counter medicines.

The ICB and the Community Pharmacy North East London (LPC) are working together to continue to offer training to practices on Pharmacy First, CPSAS and other community pharmacy clinical services. The training covers appropriate referrals and details of various services. You can book these training visits using QR codes below.



Barking & Dagenham



City & Hackney



Havering



Newham



Redbridge



Tower Hamlets



Waltham Forest

PrescQIPP Update

Upcoming PrescQIPP clinical masterclass webinars:

Clinicians may find the following monthly upcoming webinar (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
8 th October 2024	Managing heart failure in people with frailty – a balancing act

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

Practice Plus webinar recordings:

PCN pharmacists, practice pharmacists and pharmacy technicians may find the following past webinar recording useful.

Date	Webinar
11 th September 2024	Supporting the Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) agenda for the 2025/26 trainee pharmacists

View previous webinars at <https://www.prescqipp.info/learning/practice-plus/>

Upcoming Prescribing mastery webinars

PrescQIPP have introduced a new series of webinars to support pharmacist prescribers in general practice. These webinar sessions offer action learning opportunities where attendees can bring cases along to share.

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

Date	Webinar
17 th October 2024	Hypertension session 2: Reflecting on mastering hypertension prescribing – what went well, what was difficult, what could you do differently?
24 th October 2024	Cholesterol management session 1: Mastering cholesterol in a patient centred way.

Virtual Professional Groups

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

Date	Webinar
10 th October 2024	Medication safety
15 th October 2024	Care homes
22 nd October 2024	Antimicrobial stewardship
23 rd October 2024	Nutrition

PrescQIPP Talking Meds podcast

PrescQIPP has launched their new podcast, Talking Meds on 20th September 2024. This will be the first of many bi-monthly podcast episodes hosted by Jonathan Underhill (former Medicines Clinical Adviser at NICE).

Future podcast episodes will include:

- Penicillin allergy de-labelling with Phil Howard OBE
- New NICE Menopause guideline with NICE committee member Hayley Berry
- Topics such as the NICE/SIGN Asthma guideline, depression deprescribing and insomnia
- There will also be a series on 'Sensible prescribing in Older people with Jonathan and Lucy', with consultant geriatrician and author Lucy Pollock

You can subscribe to the Talking Meds podcast via the following platforms:

- [Apple podcasts](#)
- [Spotify](#)

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.

Contact Details and Additional Resources

CONTACT DETAILS

NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team (PMOT)

For prescribing and medicines enquiries:
nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net

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

england.londonaccountableoffice@nhs.net

Report CD incidents using the national reporting tool
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:

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