

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

December 2024

Updates for Community Pharmacy across North East London

Contents	Page
1. Community Pharmacies Commissioned to Provide End of Life Medicines – Holiday Opening Hours	1
2. Formulary and Pathways Update	2
3. Primary Care Updates from NHS England	3
4. PrescQIPP Update	3
5. Contact Details and Additional Resources	6

1. Community Pharmacies Commissioned to Provide End of Life Care (EoLC) Medicines – Upcoming Holiday Opening Hours

A reminder to all clinicians working in primary care that North East London (NEL) ICB has commissioned a designated number of community pharmacies to maintain a stock of commonly used End of Life Care (EoLC) medicines to ensure timely access to these medicines across NEL.

During the upcoming public holidays, there are six commissioned community pharmacies which will be open, however they will be operating at revised opening hours on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. Information on the revised opening hours for the six commissioned community pharmacies that will be open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day is provided in the table below.

Please be informed that during the Bank Holiday period, the out-of-hours service provision for EoLC medicines remains unchanged.

The following [link](#) hosted on the NEL Primary Care Portal provides information on the following:

- A list of the NEL commissioned pharmacies who provide EoLC medicines, including their contact details.
- Information on the EoLC medicines that the NEL commissioned pharmacies hold stock of.
- Guidance on accessing out-of-hours services and the commissioned pharmacies that provide this service.

Commissioned Community Pharmacy	Christmas Day opening times	Boxing Day opening times	New Year’s Day opening times
Regal Pharmacy (48-50 Chatsworth Road, Upper Clapton, E5 0LP) Telephone: 020 8985 2536	10:00-18:00	10:00-14:00	10:00-14:00
Woodgrange Pharmacy (116 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, E7 0EW) Telephone: 020 8555 5660	10:00–18:00	10:00-18:00	10:00-18:00
Forward Pharmacy (648 Mile End Road, London, E3 4LH) Telephone: 020 8980 1231	10:00–18:00	10:00-18:00	10:00-18:00

Fairlop Pharmacy (87 High Street, Barkingside, Ilford, IG6 2AH) Telephone: 020 8551 3017	12:00–23:59	12:00-23:59	12:00-23:59
Gold's Pharmacy Gants Hill (24 Seven Ways Parade, Woodford Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, IG2 6JX) Telephone: 020 8550 1050	09:30–22:00	09:30-22:00	09:30-22:00
Beehive Pharmacy (8 Beehive Lane, Gants Hill, Ilford, IG1 3RD) Telephone: 020 8554 3560	09:00–17:00	09:00-17:00	Closed
Britannia Pharmacy (Barking Community Hospital, Upney Lane, Barking IG11 9LX) Telephone: 020 8594 2686	10:00-18:00	11:00-15:00	11:00-15:00

2. Formulary and Pathways Update

North East London (NEL) electronic Joint Formulary (netFormulary®) is now LIVE!

The recently launched NEL Joint Formulary can be accessed via: www.nel-jointformulary.nhs.uk

A NEL netFormulary® user guide is available [here](#).

For any chapters not currently uploaded, you will be able to access the legacy formularies via netFormulary® during this transition period.

Formulary and Guideline Updates

Please see table below listing the drugs and guideline updates approved by the NEL Formulary and Pathways Group, including any relevant additional information to support practices.

Approved item	Additional information
Formulary addition: Riluzole orodispersible films approved for treating adult patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	Formulary status: Purple (Shared Care)
Approved guideline: NEL Paediatric Respiratory Inhaler Formulary (approved guideline) – November 2024	Medicines Guidelines- Respiratory – North East London

3. Primary Care Updates from NHS England

Clinicians may find the following updates from NHS England for primary care useful.

A. Influenza season 2024/25 – Use of antiviral medicines

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) surveillance data indicates that influenza is circulating in the community. While some areas continue to see low levels of influenza activity, surveillance indicators show that activity is increasing in all levels of care and activity is expected to increase further over the coming weeks. The most notable changes have been a significant increase in influenza positivity through laboratory surveillance and an increase in acute respiratory infection outbreaks with a marked increase in those with influenza reported, principally in care homes.

Prescribers working in primary care may now prescribe, and community pharmacists may now supply antiviral medicines (oseltamivir and zanamivir) for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza at NHS expense. This is in accordance with NICE guidance, and Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts (Prescription of drugs etc) Regulations 2004), commonly known as the Grey List or Selected List Scheme (SLS).

Antiviral medicines may be prescribed for patients in clinical at-risk groups as well as anyone at risk of severe illness and/or complications from influenza if not treated.

The Chief Medical Officer and Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England have written to health professionals through the [Central Alerting System \(CAS\)](#), to authorise NHS prescribing of antivirals in primary care and dispensing through community pharmacy from 3 December 2024.

B. Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Prescribing Webinar

The National Women's Health Programme is hosting a webinar on Tuesday 17 December 2024, 11am-12pm to share the findings of the [Inequalities in HRT Prescribing Report](#), published by NHS Business Service Authority (BSA) on 18 October 2024.

This webinar is intended to be an interactive learning opportunity for attendees. It will be chaired by Dr Sue Mann, National Clinical Director for Women's Health. Clinicians can sign up to the webinar using the following link [Inequalities in Hormone Replacement Therapy Prescribing as a treatment for menopause | NHS England Events](#).

4. PrescQIPP Update

PrescQIPP Bulletins:

Clinicians may find the following, recently-published PrescQIPP bulletins useful:

- [Bulletin 352: Insomnia](#)
- [Bulletin 353: Dependence forming medicines](#)
- [Bulletin 354: Lancets](#)
- [Bulletin 361: Medicines without harm](#)
- [Bulletin 229: Insulin pen needles](#)

Clinical Masterclass – Upcoming webinars:

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

Date	Webinar
10 th December 2024	NICE/BTS guideline on Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management
29 th January 2025	NICE Guideline on Menopause: diagnosis and management
25 th February 2025	The GP Evidence website: user-friendly clinical evidence to support shared decision making about treatments for long-term conditions

View recordings and slides from previous webinars: <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 recordings useful:

Date	Webinar
28 th November 2024	PrescQIPP Team Session on Heart Failure
12 th December 2024	The Rise of the Primary Care Pharmacy Technician

Register to join the Practice Plus group, and view previous webinars: <https://www.prescqipp.info/learning/practice-plus/>

Prescribing Mastery – Upcoming webinars

These webinar sessions support pharmacist prescribers in general practice and offer action learning opportunities where attendees can bring cases along to share. Clinicians may find the following webinars (1-2pm) useful.

Date	Webinar
14 th January 2025	Mastering Structured Medication Reviews – How do you optimise the opportunities to review patients through SMR? What tools can you use to strategically identify those patients that will get the most of the review?
30 th January 2025	Reflecting on Structured Medication Reviews – what went well, what was difficult, what could you do differently?

Virtual Professional Groups

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

Date	Webinar
18 th December 2024	Polypharmacy and deprescribing
19 th December 2024	Pharmacy technicians
6 th January 2025	Medication safety
8 th January 2025	High cost drugs and biosimilars
15 th January 2025	Care homes
28 th January 2025	Nutrition

Social Prescribing webinars

PrescQIPP have worked with the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) to develop a series of webinars to raise awareness of social prescribing among pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Attendees who complete all seven webinars (whether participating in the live events or having watched the recordings), will be awarded 'Social Prescribing Champion' status as part of the [NASP clinical champion programme](#). Clinicians can watch recordings of the previous webinars by [clicking here](#), and can register to attend the upcoming webinars by clicking on the links in the table below.

Date	Webinar
7 th January 2025	Social Prescribing for Major Conditions (2)
12 th February 2025	What does a “social prescription” look like?
11 th March 2025	How can pharmacy professionals support patients by the use of social prescribing?

PrescQIPP Podcast – ‘Talking Meds’

The ‘Talking Meds’ podcast is hosted by Jonathan Underhill (former Medicines Clinical Adviser at NICE) with episodes released bi-monthly. Episodes 1 to 6 are out now.

- Episode 4 features Lucy Pollock, a consultant geriatrician, to continue a discussion on **sensible prescribing in older people**, as part of a series of episodes on this topic.
- Episode 5 features Clare Howard, Clinical Lead for Medicines Optimisation at Health Innovation Wessex, to discuss the **development of the Repeat Prescribing Toolkit** by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Royal College of General Practitioners that she had contributed to.
- Episode 6 features Lucy Pollock, to continue discussions on **sensible prescribing in older people**, as part of a series of episodes on this topic. In this episode, Jonathan and Lucy talk about the identification and sensible management of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

Clinicians can find out more about the guests and the topics discussed in Episodes 1, 2 and 3 at the following link: [PrescQIPP Podcast](#).

Future podcast episodes will include:

- New NICE Menopause guideline with NICE committee member Hayley Berry.
- Penicillin allergy de-labelling with Phil Howard OBE.
- Topics such as the NICE/SIGN Asthma guideline, insomnia and more episodes of sensible prescribing in older people.

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

- [iTunes/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.

5. Contact Details and Additional Resources

CONTACT DETAILS

NEL ICB Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team

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 NEL electronic Joint Formulary (netFormulary®)

www.nel-jointformulary.nhs.uk

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 Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

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

For PGD Updates

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – [click here](#)
 Specialist Pharmacy Service (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.