

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

February 2025

Updates for Community Pharmacies across North East London

Contents

1. Managing Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy supply (PERT) shortages	1
2. Prescriptions for Macrolog Oral Sachets	2
3. Pharmacy First Services for patients who do not live in England	3
4. New Asthma Guidelines Webinars	3
5. MHRA Drug Safety Updates	4
6. Contact details and resources	4

1. Managing Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) supply shortages

Following the recent [National Patient Safety Alert](#) on the shortage of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT), please see the actions outlined below for clinicians. PERT is used for the treatment of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency in conditions such as cystic fibrosis, pancreatic cancer and pancreatitis. **Patients cannot be left without PERT because it can cause severe harm.** This can lead to hypoglycaemia, severe bowel symptoms, poor absorption of other medications and weight loss.

Actions for community pharmacies:

- Please reassure patients that supplies of PERT are continuing to reach the UK and avoid the accumulation of excess supplies.
- Pharmacies presented with repeat prescriptions should only supply the equivalent to one month's supply in accordance with the Serious Shortage Protocols [SSP060 and SSP061](#) and endorse accordingly.
- Pharmacies are reminded to continue to adhere to the requirements laid out in the [NatPSA](#).
- Continue to source licensed PERT through your usual wholesalers' stock which is usually released from manufacturers to wholesalers three times a month.
- Please secure the most cost-effective supply of unlicensed PERT (which may be through your usual wholesaler or Oxford Pharmacy Store (OPS)).
- If patients ask to try a different pharmacy, please return the prescription to the spine and give a printed token to the patient.
- If patients are due to run out of licensed PERT in the next 10 days and there are no other preparations available, consider ordering Pangrol®. NEL pharmacies can access centralised stock of Pangrol® ordered from the [Oxford Pharmacy Store](#) (OPS).
- Please contact the GP to request a handwritten paper FP10 prescription for Pangrol® as soon as possible.
- Pharmacies will be able to order Pangrol® (unlicensed) from the OPS if they have an account set up with them. Existing customers should continue to place orders as usual.
- For new customers, [Register for a New Account](#) or complete and return a completed OPS New Customer Verification Form to set up an account with OPS (this may take up to 3 days).
- Please note the following important details for returning the New Customer Verification Forms to OPS:

- Ensure the Customer Details and Customer Verification sections are completed.
- Include the Supply of Unlicensed Medicine Confirmation Form.
- OPS cannot accept typed name signatures; please ensure the documents have either an electronic or a wet signature.
- Return the signed forms along with a Purchase Order (PO) to ops.orders@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
- Without these forms and a PO, they will be unable to set up your account.

Please send orders to ops.orders@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk or via online order form accessible via [Oxford Pharmacy Store: Order Information](#)

How to dispense prescriptions for Pangrol® (Unlicensed)

- There is a clinical difference between Pangrol® and Creon®. Pharmacist should counsel patients on how to take Pangrol®.
 - The Pangrol® PIL states: "If you have difficulty swallowing the capsule whole, you can also carefully open it over a suitable container by pulling it apart and swallowing only the contents with a little liquid immediately and without chewing".
 - The Creon® PIL states: If the capsules cannot be taken whole, "open the capsules and mix the granules (without crushing) with acidic liquid (e.g. apple, orange or pineapple juice) or soft food (e.g. apple sauce or yoghurt). Swallow the mixture straight away, without chewing".
- When dispensing please print and include the relevant patient information leaflet:
 - [Patient Information Leaflet: Pangrol® 10 000](#)
 - [Patient Information Leaflet: Pangrol® 25 000](#)

How to endorse prescriptions for Pangrol®

- Make sure any Pangrol® paper FP10 prescriptions are endorsed with the following information:
 - **Amount dispensed over pack size** (200) used
 - **Invoice price per pack size** from which the order was supplied less any discount or rebate; make sure to include delivery cost
 - Manufacturers'/importers' (Target Healthcare) MHRA licence number which is; **MS43086/WDA(H)43086**
 - **Batch number** of the product supplied;
 - The letters '**SP**' to indicate it is a special.

Refer to [How should I endorse a special, unlicensed or imported drug?](#)

2. Prescription for Macrolog Oral Sachets

There is a significant clinical and cost difference between Macrolog 3350 Oral Powder **8.5g** Sachets Sugar Free (**TransiSoft®**) and the NEL formulary choice Macrolog 3350 Compound Oral Powder **13.7g** Sachets Sugar Free.

- Macrolog 3350 oral powder 8.5g sachets sugar free (**TransiSoft®**) is NEL NON-FORMULARY and does not contain electrolytes
- It is also significantly more expensive than NEL formulary choice Macrolog 3350 Compound Oral Powder **13.7g** Sachets Sugar Free (£164.21/28 sachets compared to £5.50/30 sachets)
- There is a risk that prescribers could unintentionally prescribe Macrolog 3350 Oral Powder **8.5g** Sachets Sugar Free (**TransiSoft®**) when they intend to prescribe NEL formulary choice Macrolog 3350 Compound Oral Powder **13.7g** Sachets Sugar Free with electrolytes

Action For Pharmacy:

- If you receive a prescription for Macrolog 3350 Oral Powder 8.5g Sachets Sugar Free, please contact the practice to query the prescription

- Please highlight that this preparation does not contain electrolytes and is non-formulary across NEL
- Please suggest formulary alternative Macrogol 3350 Compound Oral Powder **13.7g** Sachets Sugar Free

3. Pharmacy First Services for patients who do not live in England

[Community Pharmacy England](#) has recently updated their FAQ section on Pharmacy First, specifically in relation to the provision for Pharmacy First services to patients who do not live in England.

NHS England has now agreed that patients who do not live in England can be referred to the Pharmacy First services by NHS 111, a GP or a UTC.

Patients who do not live in England are also eligible as walk-in for the clinical pathways of Pharmacy First, subject to meeting the normal inclusion gateway criteria.

Remote Pharmacy First consultations (telephone/audio or video consultation) are not permitted for patients who do not live in England.

For more information, please visit the [Pharmacy First FAQ page](#) on the Community Pharmacy England website.

Please visit [here](#) for more information of Pharmacy First, including the service specification, individual clinical pathway and gateway criteria and approved patient group directions.

4. New BTS/NICE/SIGN Asthma Guidelines Webinars

NICE recently published new guidelines, Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management found [here](#). These new guidelines were a collaboration of NTS, NICE and SIGN, and jointly published by all three organisations. Two webinars, delivered via MS Teams will be held to introduce the new guidelines and provide information about implementing the guidelines.

Please register separately for each of the two dates using the links below.

Dr Ernie Wong, Respiratory Consultant, will lead both sessions with guest contributors.

Dates: 11th March 2025 and 18th March 2025

Time for each webinar: 1pm – 2pm

Webinar 1- Introduction and diagnosis (11th March 2025)

- Introduction to the New BTS NICE SIGN asthma guidelines
- Making a diagnosis of asthma using the new guidelines
- FAQs from Primary Care
- Q&A session

To register, click [Part 1 Registration for 11th March 2025](#)

Webinar 2- Management of chronic asthma (18th March 2025)

- Management of newly diagnosed asthma using the new guidelines- the concept of AIR and MART
- How to complete an AIR/MART asthma action plan
- How to manage existing patients
- When to refer for specialist care
- FAQs from Primary Care
- Q&A Session

To register, click [Part 2 Registration for 18th March 2025](#)

5. MHRA Drug Safety Updates

Serious Supply Shortage (SSPs)

All active SSPs can be accessed here [Serious shortage protocols \(SSPs\) | NHSBSA](#)

MHRA Latest Safety Updates

- [GLP-1 and dual GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists: potential risk of pulmonary aspiration during general anaesthesia or deep sedation](#)
- [Valproate \(Belvo, Convulex, Depakote, Dyzantil, Epilim, Epilim Chrono or Chronosphere, Episenta, Epival, and Syonell ▼\): two specialist review will not be required for male patients already taking valproate](#)

MHRA Drug Safety Updates can be accessed here: [Monthly PDF editions of the Drug Safety Update newsletter from MHRA and its independent advisor, the Commission on Human Medicines](#)

Medicine Recalls and notifications

Class 2 Medicines and supplement recall notifications between 8 January to 5 February 2025 can be accessed here: [North East London Medicines Recall Notification](#)

All medicine recalls and notifications can be accessed here: [Alerts, recalls and safety information: drugs and medical devices](#).

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 MHRA information	For all MHRA updates on alerts, recalls and safety information on drugs and medical devices Alerts, recalls and safety information: drugs and medical devices - GOV.UK
Learn from Patient Safety Events Service (LFPSE)	For reporting patient safety incidents and misses NHS England » Learn from patient safety events (LFPSE) service
For Medicines Safety Tools - PrescQIPP	PrescQIPP - Medicines safety
For reporting suspected adverse effects/defects of medicines or devices – Yellow Card Scheme	Yellow Card Making medicines and medical devices safer

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.