

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

August 2026

Updates for Community Pharmacy across North East London

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1. Important Update: Levemir® (Insulin Detemir) Discontinuation

Novo Nordisk® is discontinuing **Levemir® Penfill®** and **Levemir® FlexPen®**. NHS England has advised that the majority of patients should be switched by **30th September 2026** allowing time for follow up and earlier than anticipated stock depletion. By **30th November 2026** all patients should be switched from Levemir®.

Please see the latest information here: [Important update: Levemir® \(insulin detemir\) discontinuation – immediate action required to accelerate patient switching](#).

Immediate Action Required from Community Pharmacies:

Every Levemir® Prescription Is an Opportunity for Intervention
Community pharmacy teams play a vital role in identifying patients who remain on Levemir® and helping to prevent disruption to treatment.

1. Identify Patients Still Receiving Levemir®

Review PMR records to identify and flag patients who continue to receive Levemir®

2. Contact the Prescriber

Where a patient remains on Levemir®, contact the GP practice and seek confirmation that a switching plan is in place.

3. Reinforce Key Messages with Patients

Advise patients that:

- Levemir® is being discontinued.
- Alternative insulin treatment will be required.
- They should not wait until supplies become difficult to obtain before contacting their GP practice or diabetes team.

4. Escalate Supply Concerns Urgently

Any patient at risk of running out of insulin or experiencing difficulty obtaining supplies should be escalated immediately to the prescriber.

Resources to support switching

- [National clinical guidance](#)
- [NEL Levemir Guidance Note](#)
- [SPS safety considerations when switching insulin](#)
- [SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Practices and community pharmacies are asked to treat this notification of the imminent scarcity of Levemir® supplies for their patients as an immediate priority.

2. Formulary and Pathways Group (FPG) Updates

Approved Item / Guidance and Pathway	Additional information
Budesonide suppositories for induction of remission of mild to moderate acute ulcerative proctitis in adults	Amber 1
Dapagliflozin switch protocol for NEL NHS Primary Care	26-27 NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme
NEL Amiodarone monitoring guide	NEL Amiodarone monitoring guide
NICE Technology appraisals	
TA 1143 Fezolinetant for treating moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause	Amber 1
TA 1172 - Atogepant for treating migraine	Formulary status change to Green
Review of past decision for NICE TA 919 Rimegepant for treating migraine	Formulary status change to Green to align with atogepant
TA 694 (update) - Bempedoic acid with ezetimibe for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia	Green (no change to existing status)
TA 1148 - Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate for treating hyperkalaemia	Amber 2
TA 1152 - Semaglutide for reducing the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in people with cardiovascular disease and overweight or obesity	Green

3. PrescQIPP Updates

PrescQIPP Latest Podcast: Talking Meds

Latest Episode: [Episode 44. Pain management with Prof. Sailesh Mishra](#)

Upcoming webinars

Date	Time	Webinar
9 th September 2026	1 - 2pm	Clinical Masterclass: Immunotherapy for non-specialists – what everyone should know about checkpoint inhibitors. Register to join: here
16 th September 2026	1 - 2pm	Prescribing Mastery: Frailty session 1. Register to join: here
22 nd September 2026	1 - 2pm	Same medicines, different people: Understanding patient behaviour using typologies to tailor support (Part 2 of a supporting medicines self-management series). Register to join: here

23 rd September 2026	1 - 2pm	Practice Plus - A focus on Anticholinergic Burden - a quality improvement and change management approach to primary care practice. Register to join: here
30 th September 2026	1 - 2pm	Prescribing Mastery: Frailty session 2. Register to join: here

To access PrescQIPP resources for the first time, you are required to [register](#) for a free account. When completing your registration, please select “ICS North East London” as your organisation.

4. Contact Details and Additional Resources

CONTACT DETAILS

NEL ICB Medicines and Pharmacy Team	For prescribing and medicines enquiries: nelondonicb.prescribingqueries@nhs.net
Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) Medicines Advice	For all patient specific clinical queries please use the following SPS contact: asksps.nhs@sps.direct
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 Joint Formulary	https://www.nel-jointformulary.nhs.uk User guide: NEL netFormulary User Guide FINAL .pdf
For Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Team Resources	https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/home/meds/
For PGD Updates	UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) – click here SPS – click here NHS England (NHSE) – click here
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 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
Medication Safety Updates (including learning from Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) reports)	To view critical medication safety alerts, notifications, publications, updates and learning and recommendations from PFD reports click here (free registration required).
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:

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