

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

June 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®**. [Medicines Supply Notifications](#) highlights that, although UK stock is currently anticipated to last until December 2026, there is an increasing risk of earlier stock depletion, reinforcing the need for timely and coordinated switching.

Please refer to the [NEL Guidance note](#) for more information.

Actions for community pharmacy teams:

- If a prescription for Levemir® is received:
 - Advise the patient that their **GP or diabetes specialist will contact them** to discuss an alternative insulin.
 - Contact a patient's practice if they haven't heard from their GP or diabetes specialist by 31/8/26.
 - Reassure the patient that they will continue to receive insulin treatment.
 - Explain that Levemir® will be discontinued by **December 2026**, but other options are available.
 - Be alert to unusually large quantities prescribed and, where appropriate, query these with the prescriber to help prevent stockpiling and support equitable availability for all patients during the transition period.

2. NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme 2026/27

Delivering value for money remains a key priority across NEL and is an essential consideration alongside clinical decision-making. NEL ICB's Annual Prescribing Efficiency Scheme (PES) helps NEL to deliver value for money by promoting and incentivising more cost-effective prescribing opportunities across NEL GP practices.

The 2026/27 NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme is due to launch on **Monday 13th July 2026**.

For information on the scheme, this will be included in the next edition of the NEL ICB Community Pharmacy newsletter.

3. Reminder and Useful Tips when Providing the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service

Based on feedback and queries received from members of general practice, below are some important reminders for pharmacy professionals providing the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service.

- If a patient does not consent to sharing information with their GP or they are not registered with a GP, the contraception service can still proceed and notification to the GP will not need to be sent.
- With patient consent, the patient record e.g. via GP Connect, National Care Record, must be checked prior to making a supply under the service. This includes checking for previous or recent supplies of contraception (including emergency hormonal contraception (EHC)) from other pharmacies.
- When a patient presents for emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), they should be advised that the use of a copper intra-uterine device (IUD) within 5 days of unprotected sexual intercourse (UPSI) is the most effective method of emergency contraception.
- If a patient is considering / is being signposted for a **copper IUD** for emergency contraception, **oral EHC** can also be offered to the patient, as there is a risk the patient may not have an IUD fitted.
- Patients being given EHC, should be advised that the use of EHC may affect their menstruation bleeding patterns, e.g. 5-7 days delay from their expected period.
- Patients presenting for EHC, should be encouraged to consider the use of regular contraception, including Long-acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), particularly in patients with repeated attendance for EHC.
- Patients presenting for EHC, should always be informed of the availability, and be proactively offered oral contraception, either as an initiation or on-going supply.
- If any potential safeguarding concerns have been identified during a consultation, appropriate actions should be taken in line with local safeguarding processes and relevant documentation in the patient's clinical record should be made.

Please refer to the [NHS Pharmacy Contraception service specification and PGDs](#) for further details.

4. The NEL Covid Medicines Delivery service

The NEL London Covid Medicines Delivery service is changing. Barts Health will now be providing the virtual triaging and prescribing service for eligible patients in primary care (from **19th May 2026**).

Referrals can be made to 07541 694164 or email Bartshealth.CMDUreferrals@nhs.net and the team can be currently contacted on

For more information [Covid-19 treatments - NHS North East London](#).

5. Workforce, Training and Education (WT&E) Pharmacy London Training Opportunities

To support workforce development across the pharmacy profession WT&E Pharmacy London is offering training opportunities in response to feedback received from pharmacy professionals and organisations across London, helping to ensure that training opportunities align with current workforce priorities.

Please see the document, circulated separately by email, outlining the available opportunities. The document provides information on a range of funded training programmes, professional development opportunities and educational resources available to support pharmacy professionals across London.

6. Contact Details and Additional Resources

CONTACT DETAILS

NEL 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: askspis.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 Medicines and Pharmacy 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
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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