

NEL Prescribing and Medicines Newsletter

June 2026

Updates for Primary Care across North East London

Contents

1. Important update: Levemir® (insulin detemir) Discontinuation	1
2. North East London (NEL) Prescribing Efficiency Scheme 2026/27	2
3. NEL Preferred Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter Inhibitor (SGLT2i)	2
4. Formulary and Pathways Group Update	2
5. NEL Obesity Management Clinical Policy Webinar Recording	3
6. The NEL Covid Medicines Delivery service	3
7. Workforce, Training and Education (WT&E) Pharmacy London Training Opportunities	3
8. PADEL Antidepressant Pharmacogenomics Study – Call for GP Practices	3
9. Training & Education: Initiating & Monitoring Direct Oral Anticoagulants in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation for Stroke Prevention Part 2	4
10. Polypharmacy Masterclass: Supporting Patients with Problematic Polypharmacy	4
11. PrescQIPP Updates	4
12. Contact Details and Additional Resources	5

1. Important update: Levemir® (insulin detemir) Discontinuation

Novo Nordisk is discontinuing **Levemir® Penfill®** and **Levemir® FlexPen®**. A recent [Medicines Supply Notification](#) 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 on this product discontinuation.

Actions for General Practice:

- **STOP** initiating new patients on Levemir® FlexPen® or Penfill®.
- Run clinical searches to identify all patients currently prescribed Levemir®. Searches are available on both EMIS and SystmOne across NEL practices, stored in practice support searches under 'Externally created resources'.
- Prioritise review of patients currently prescribed Levemir® starting with Type 1 diabetic patients, complex patients requiring specialist care, paediatric and adolescent patients under the care of specialist diabetes teams who should be managed in accordance with specialist pathways.
- Check whether patients have a routine appointment with their diabetes specialist team scheduled before September 2026.
- If an appointment is scheduled after this date or no appointment is scheduled, notify the relevant specialist service (secondary care or community) using the most appropriate route, e.g. Advice & Guidance (A&G), so an appointment can be scheduled before September 2026.
- Where primary care staff with diabetes specialist expertise or other suitably experienced clinicians are available, practices should prioritise all other patients for review in line with [national clinical guidance](#).

- Diversify prescribing across recommended alternative insulins to support demand.
- Check stock availability using the [SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#) and [SPS safety considerations when switching insulin](#) before prescribing.

2. NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme 2026/27

The 2026/27 NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme is due to launch on **Monday 13th July 2026**. Practices will be notified of the launch by email with a link to the **2026/27 NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme Folder** located on the [Medicines Optimisation North East London Portal](#).

Information within the **2026/27 NEL Prescribing Efficiency Scheme Folder** will include:

- A pre-recorded launch webinar explaining the scheme plus an accompanying slide-set
- The PES 2026/27 scheme document with full details on the scheme
- PES 2026/27 practice baseline data
- Practice links to the CoordinateRx platform, with data updated each month, to enable practices to monitor achievement progress
- Clinical System searches to help practices identify patients for review
- Resources to support with delivery of the scheme

The NEL Medicines and Pharmacy Team will be holding **PES 2026/27 Drop-In Information Sessions** following the launch of the scheme on the following dates:

- Tuesday 14th July 1-2pm [Registration Link](#)
- Thursday 23rd July 1-2pm [Registration Link](#)
- Wednesday 29th July 1-2pm [Registration Link](#)

These sessions will provide an opportunity for practices to ask questions and seek clarity on the details of the scheme. All NEL practices are welcome and encouraged to register and attend.

Please ensure all relevant practice staff are on the mailing list to receive emails from NEL Medicines and Pharmacy Team. Requests to be added to the mailing list can be sent to: nelondonicb.medicinesoptimisationenquiries@nhs.net

3. NEL Preferred Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter Inhibitor (SGLT2i)

Generic dapagliflozin entered the UK market in September 2025, offering significant opportunity to increase medicines value for SGLT2 inhibitors across all indications of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM), Heart Failure (HF) and chronic kidney disease (CKD).

NHS England (NHSE) requested that all Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) take action to optimise prescribing of SGLT2 indicators by ensuring that eligible patients are offered generic dapagliflozin as the first line agent.

In response to this NEL ICB engaged with relevant specialists across NEL to agree a position statement [Preferred SGLT2 inhibitor for treatment of T2DM, HF and CKD](#) which recommends that generic dapagliflozin is prescribed first line for patients who are eligible for SGLT2 inhibitor treatment unless it is contraindicated, not tolerated, or clinically unsuitable.

Prescribing dapagliflozin first line for patients who are eligible for treatment with an SGLT2 inhibitor will support the NEL 2026/27 Prescribing Efficiency Scheme which is due to be launched in July 2026.

4. Formulary and Pathways Group Update

Approved Item / Guidance and Pathway	Additional information
--------------------------------------	------------------------

Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) Formulary status change for Obesity Management in Adults ≥ 18 years	Green in accordance with Medicines Guidelines – Weight Management – North East London
---	---

5. NEL Obesity Management Clinical Policy Webinar Recording

The recording of the recent [Introduction to NEL Obesity Management Clinical Policy](#) webinar, delivered by the NEL Medicines and Pharmacy Team, is now available to access via the following link: [click here](#).

GP practice clinicians can also access:

- [Webinar slides](#)
- [FAQ document covering questions raised during the session](#)
- NEL GP Obesity Management Resource Pack. (This will be uploaded to the following weblink in due course: [Medicines Guidelines – Weight Management – North East London](#))

Clinicians are encouraged to review these resources to support implementation of the 2026/27 QOF obesity indicators and NEL obesity management clinical policy in primary care.

6. The NEL Covid Medicines Delivery service

The NEL London Covid Medicines Delivery service is changing. Barts Health are now 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. The team can also currently be contacted on

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

7. 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 do look at the document, which has been circulated by email separately, 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.

8. PADEL Antidepressant Pharmacogenomics Study – Call for GP Practices

The PADEL (Pharmacogenomics of Anti-Depressants: Economics and Life Outcomes) study aims to explore whether genetic testing can improve first-line antidepressant prescribing in primary care.

Recruitment for this national research initiative opens January 2027. It's designed to fit into routine GP workflows with practices needing to identify eligible patients and introduce the study, whilst support for managing, testing and follow-up will be undertaken by a central research team. Practices will receive reimbursement for participation.

For more information, register for an upcoming webinar using the links below or contact the study team nicola.godfrey@mft.nhs.uk:

- **24th June 12.30pm – 1.30pm:** [Webinar 24th June - Using genomics to guide antidepressant prescribing: The PADEL Study](#)
- **1st July 12.30pm – 1.30pm:** [Webinar 1st July - Using genomics to guide antidepressant prescribing: The PADEL Study](#)
- **15th July 12.30pm – 1.30pm:** [Webinar 15th July - Using genomics to guide antidepressant prescribing: The PADEL Study](#)

9. Training & Education: Initiating & Monitoring Direct Oral Anticoagulants in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation for Stroke Prevention Part 2

To support prescribers in building confidence and competence with DOAC initiation, NEL ICB has arranged DOAC initiation training with specialist input on **Tuesday 30th June 2026 (1pm – 2pm)**. Registration link [here](#)

10. Polypharmacy Masterclass: Supporting Patients with Problematic Polypharmacy

The Health Innovation Network is hosting a Polypharmacy Masterclass on **Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 12pm**, focusing on the implementation of the 2026/27 Primary Care Network (PCN) Directed Enhanced Service (DES) and supporting patients with problematic polypharmacy.

The session will cover updates to the PCN DES, the role of Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs), practical approaches to tackling polypharmacy, and resources to support patient engagement. Attendees will also hear a case study on implementation of the PCN DES in Dorset.

Speakers include Dr Wasim Baqir (NHS England), Steve Williams (Poole Bay & Bournemouth PCN) and Clare Howard (Health Innovation Network).

To book a place, please visit: [Book your place – Polypharmacy Masterclass: Implementation of the PCN DES – supporting patients with problematic polypharmacy – Zoom](#)

11. PrescQIPP Updates

PrescQIPP Latest Podcast

In each episode of the PrescQIPP monthly podcasts, Jonathan Underhill hosts a fantastic guest to discuss current medical issues and clinical dilemmas.

Link: [Talking Meds Episode 43. Social prescribing with Monica Boulton](#)

Upcoming PrescQIPP Webinars

Date	Webinar
Wed 01 July 2026 1pm-2pm	Prescribing mastery: Atrial Fibrillation 1 Registration Link: PrescQIPP Prescribing Mastery - Atrial fibrillation Session 1
Thu 16 July 2026 1pm - 2pm	Prescribing mastery: Atrial Fibrillation 2 Registration Link: PrescQIPP Prescribing Mastery - Atrial Fibrillation Session 2
Wed 08 July 2026 1pm - 2pm	Clinical masterclass: Managing Cancer as a Long-Term Condition in Primary Care

Registration Link: Clinical Masterclass - Managing Cancer as a Long Term Condition in Primary Care
--

12. 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 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:

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 Medicines and Pharmacy 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.