

Greenwich Clinical Matters

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Low Carbon Inhaler Choices

Ventolin 100mcg Evohaler has more than double the carbon footprint of other Salbutamol pressured metered dose inhalers (pMDIs). A current message has been switched on in OptimiseRx to remind clinicians to prescribe a low carbon footprint salbutamol inhaler.

Action:

- Assess patient clinical suitability for the swap.
- Prescribe salbutamol pMDIs by brand: e.g., Salamol or Airomir
- Advise patient on change of device and reinforce inhaler technique.
- Review the quantity issued with asthma control

Prescribers may consider Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) for patients (over 12 years old) with asthma if they are still getting asthma symptoms despite being on inhaled corticosteroid and/or if they are using more than prescribed beta-agonist inhaler.

Wound Care Update

There is a significant increase in the spend on wound care products within Greenwich in the last year. District Nurses (DN) and Tissue Viability Service (TVN) are required to follow the integrated wound care pathway and prescribe from their wound formularies respectively, and to order from Amcare.

If a non-formulary item is needed by the DN:

- DNs should request the TVNs to prescribe the item
- If the item is not in the TVN formulary, a request may be submitted to the patient's GP for an FP10 prescription, using the request form, citing the rationale for use. Details can be found in the **[Attachment 1-3]**.

Action: Healthcare professionals (HCP) are reminded to:

- Prescribe the minimum quantity of dressings sufficient to meet people's needs. (**Please limit the prescribing quantity to 10 units** as most dressings can stay in place for 3-5 days except on infected wounds).
- Please forward any DN request to GPs to Mark Shek, Prescribing and Pathway Advisor on mark.shek@selondonics.nhs.uk.

Microguide resource

MicroGuide is a tool that allows local antimicrobial guidelines to be easily accessible to prescribers.

Action: Download the Microguide app to mobile phone. Computer access can be [found here](#). Further information on accessing the app can be found in **[Attachment 4]**.

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

JCVI - updates to childhood schedule

JCVI advises that:

- An additional dose of Hib-containing multivalent vaccine should be offered at 12 or 18 months of age – note that giving this at 18 months would require the creation of a new immunisation visit
- The second dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine should be brought forwards from 3 years 4 months to 18 months of age to improve coverage
- Based on the demonstrated decline of invasive meningococcal A, C, W and Y disease in the UK, including a dose of MenC-containing vaccine (such as MenACWY) in the infant schedule is not recommended – efforts to sustain and improve coverage of MenACWY in adolescents are important to maintain herd immunity

Action: Further information for childhood schedule statement can be found [here](#).

JCVI - HPV update

Final advice has been given on moving to a one dose HPV vaccine schedule for the routine adolescent programme and men who have sex with men (MSM) programme before age 25, 2 dose schedule from age of 25 in MSM programme and 3 dose schedules for individuals who are immunosuppressed and those known to be HIV-positive.

Action: Further information on the HPV statement can be found [here](#).

Health Innovation Network (HIN) update

Opioid Stewardship Quality Improvement Collaborative

This collaborative is a CPD accredited programme that will last 6 months and combine masterclasses from local and clinical specialist experts. Although the focus is on the safer use of opioids, the methodologies introduced as part of the sessions will be applicable in any therapeutic area.

Action: If interested, primary care/PCN clinicians should apply by the 23rd of September. For further information, please see **[Attachment 5-7]**.

Severe Asthma: National Programme in Primary Care

The programme has recently had important developments,

- A newly published [pathway for severe asthma](#);
- A call to action in primary care to [pro-actively identify and optimise pts with severe asthma using the SPECTRA tool](#).
- Free e-learning module available for ([identifying and managing uncontrolled asthma](#)), specifically designed with primary care pharmacist in mind.

Action: Clinicians are enjoined to go through these useful resources for the management of their patients

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND PRIMARY CARE

Update on Community Adult Audiology Hearing Service

Following from the communication sent to practices in June, there are now 5 community adult audiology providers for GP practices and patients to choose from.

Action: Patients are to be offered a provider and location of their choice which meets their needs. For more information, please see [Attachment 8] or email caa@selondonics.nhs.uk

Post Covid Rehabilitation Service Update

Bespoke Wellbeing will be taking over from Respiricare to deliver the Post Covid Rehabilitation Service across Bexley and Greenwich from the 1st October.

Action: GPs are required to fill out the 'LC Referral Form' (available on DXS) and sent *securely* to longcovid@bespokewellbeing.co.uk. Further information can be found in [Attachment 9].

The British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) Non-Smoking Lung Cancer (NSLC) Update

BTOG in collaboration with the Ruth Strauss Foundation, are holding an essential update session for all healthcare professionals to help raise awareness of NSLC.

Action: To register for the event, please [click here](#) and see [Attachment 10] for programme information.

The Symbiosis of Better Clinical Care and Sustainability in Airways Disease -Webinar

This webinar is aimed at all primary care clinicians involved in the care of patients with respiratory disease.

Action: Further information can be seen in [Attachment 11]. To book, [please click here](#).

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Out of Stock Updates

Provera (Medroxyprogesterone acetate)

There are currently stock issues with Provera 5mg and 10mg tablets. Supplies expected mid October 2022 for both.

Action:

- 2.5mg remain available but will not be able to support an increase in demand. Prescribers should consider norethisterone as per indication.

Nutramigen supply shortage

Nutramigen 1 and 2 with LGG are prescribed as a milk alternative for Cow's Milk Allergy in infants and young children under 14 months of age. There is currently a supply shortage for both.

Action:

- Please contact the SEL prescribing support dietitians
- Potential alternatives can be found in [Attachment 12].

Paediatric formulary access online via Clinibee

The SEL paediatric formulary can now be accessed via the Clinibee app.

Action: For Information on how to download the Clinibee app to your mobile phone see [Attachment 13]. For login details contact greenwich.pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Drug Safety Update

Defect affecting specific batches of Novorapid FlexTouch and Saxenda FlexTouch prefilled pen devices

The defect results in a non-functioning device where the click sound will not be heard, thus patients cannot inject a set dose. Based on the critical need for the products, they are not being recalled.

Action:

- Healthcare professionals in community pharmacies (CP) to provide replacement pens to patients returning faulty pens
- CPs to contact Novo Nordisk Customer Care to report faulty pens returned by patients
- Novo Nordisk to provide CPs with a pre-paid jiffy bag to return the faulty pen for re-imburement.

For further information, [click here](#).

Drug Tariff Update

Hypromellose eye drops 0.3%

Hypromellose eye drops 0.3% have been deleted from Part VIII A of the June 2022 Drug Tariff and equivalent brands are listed in the Appliances section (Part IX A). Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops are available as a **medical device** and can be dispensed against NHS prescriptions. The following can be dispensed for Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops 10ml:

- AproMel® (£0.97)
- Teardew® 0.3% (£0.99)
- Lumecare Tear® Drops (£0.95)

Action:

- Advise patients to purchase a suitable product over the counter for mild/moderate cases.
- CP must endorse the brand name of the product dispensed as listed in Part IX A of the Tariff, otherwise the script will be returned for clarification. Any other brand dispensed that is not listed in the Tariff will be disallowed by NHS BSA

Over The Counter (OTC) reclassification: Estriol 10microgram tablet (Gina)

From September, women will be able to buy OTC Gina tablet without requiring a prescription from CP. It is licensed for the treatment of vaginal symptoms (such as dryness, soreness, itching and burning) in estrogen deficiency in postmenopausal women aged 50 years and above who have not had a period for at least 1 year.

Action: Once available, CP pharmacists will have access to training materials and checklist that they must complete so they can competently advise women on whether the tablets appropriate and safe for them to use. For more information, [click here](#).

Contact Details

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