

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Ardens Manager Medicines Optimisation webinar

The Ardens Manager and the Medicines Optimisation teams hosted a webinar on the 28th May to support practices to take full advantage of the functionality of Ardens Manager to support your medicines optimisation activities, including:

- A patient-centred, holistic, population health management approach which will enable for medicines optimisation and prescribing. It will include an understanding of unwarranted variation and which patients and populations to target.
- How to access and use the various dashboards, including Prescribing, CQC and QOF.

The recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

Please see **Attachment 1** for the FAQ from the event.

Ardens Manager contact details:

- For free training - training@ardens.org.uk
- For support team - support-manager@ardens.org.uk

Extension of DOAC Local Enhanced Service (LES)

We are pleased to inform all GP practices in Greenwich that the Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) Local Enhanced Service (LES) has been extended until 31st March 2026. This extension ensures continued support for the safe and effective initiation and management of DOAC therapy in primary care, helping to reduce hospital waiting times and improve patient outcomes. Practices currently participating in the LES do not need to re-sign the agreement.

For any queries or to express interest in joining the service, please contact: Greenwich.Pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk

DOAC Resources:

[DOAC initiation and monitoring guidance](#)

[DOAC FAQ](#)

[DOAC calculating renal function](#)

Communications Toolkit to Promote Pharmacy First in General Practice live on SEL.net

New promotional material and a toolkit for Pharmacy First are now available on [SEL.net](#):

- Communications Toolkit to Promote Pharmacy First in General Practice
 - Links to resources
 - Resources which can be 'lifted' and used in practices for websites/display screens/telephone messages/sms etc
 - How to do referrals
 - Includes BP and oral contraceptive referral information
 - Ardens searches
- Social Media:
 - Posters for child and adult conditions

Shortened Manual Claim Journey for MYS NHS Discharge Medicines Service (NHS DMS)

Following feedback from Community Pharmacy England, there will be a new streamlined process for making claims for NHS DMS via the MYS portal. This will be more user-friendly and efficient and will go live on 6th July 2025.

Further information can be found [here](#) and FAQs can be found [here](#).

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

A guide for primary care clinicians managing ADHD medication side effects

A sudden rise in individuals referred for ADHD assessments and subsequently discharged to general practice has added significant responsibilities to primary care. This [article](#) provides context of management in primary care and a medication guide. Refer to the [SEL Primary Care and Private Interface Prescribing Guide](#) for further information.

Carers Information Guide: Our Greenwich, Our Carers

Please see the [Information Guide for Carers](#) launched by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

The guide provides information on access to local services, financial support, and mental health resources. It aims to empower carers with the knowledge and tools they need to provide effective care, while also supporting their own wellbeing.

UK Health Security Agency cascades

Ceftriaxone-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae*: Increasing cases, including transmission associated with sex workers

UKHSA have produced a Health Protection Briefing Note on the concerning increase in the number of cases of ceftriaxone-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections reported in England.

Actions:

- Please see **Attachment 2** for the health protection briefing and disseminate to all relevant staff

Human rabies infection following animal exposure abroad

Please see **Attachment 3** from the UKHSA, reminding healthcare professionals of the rabies risks from animals and the importance of prompt post-exposure treatment for those exposed to an animal overseas or a bat here in the UK.

Ant concerns of possible rabies and testing required can be discussed with the Consultant Virologists at the Rabies and Immunoglobulin Service (RIGS) on 0330 128 1020.

Infection specialists may wish to discuss alternative diagnoses and testing with the Imported Fever Service (0844 778 8990).

Medicines Safety

Look alike-sound alike drugs

Locally a patient in hospital was prescribed promazine liquid, however, promethazine liquid should have been prescribed instead.

Clinicians are advised to check when selecting medicines to be prescribed and dispensed such as reading aloud the medication, storing look alike-sound alike medicines separately and ensuring the medicine selected is appropriate for the patient's condition

Actions:

- Review [PrescQIPP look-alike-sound-alike guidance](#)
- Continue to report medication errors

Quality Alerts and Serious Incidents Reporting

GP practices and community pharmacies are encouraged to report any incidents or quality alerts, as these are vital for improving patient safety and care. Current quality alert levels suggest these may be underreported.

The SEL Incident Reporting Policy and Procedure can be found [here](#). Reporting is via DATIX, which can be found [here](#).

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Medicines Supply Issues

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs)

If the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) decide there is a serious shortage of a specific medicine, then an SSP may be issued. The following SSPs have been issued for:

- [Venlafaxine 37.5mg MR tablet](#) – 23 June to 1 August 2025
- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 25microgram/24 hours transdermal patch](#) – 3 April to 4 July 2025
- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 50micrograms/24 hours transdermal patch](#) – 19 December 2024 to 4 July 2025
- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 75micrograms/24 hours transdermal patch](#) - 19 December 2024 to 10 October 2025
- [Estradot® \(estradiol\) 100micrograms/24 hours transdermal patch](#) – 19 December 2024 to 10 October 2025
- [Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free](#) – 10 December 2024 to 1 August 2025
- [Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free](#) – 8 May to 8 August 2025
- [Creon® 25000 capsules](#) – 24 May 2024 to 21 November 2025
- [Creon® 10000 capsules](#) – 24 May 2024 to 21 November 2025

Medicines Shortages: Medicine Supply Notification (MSN)

The contents of MSNs can be viewed on the [Medicines Supply Tool](#). To access the tool you will be required to register with the [SPS](#). MSNs have been issued for the following:

- Tier 2 MSN for Buprenorphine (Relevtec®) 35micrograms/hr, 52.5micrograms/hr, 70micrograms/hr transdermal patches Buprenorphine (Bupeaze®) 52.5micrograms/hr transdermal patches
- Tier 2 MSN for Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® Penfill 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges
- Tier 2 MSN for Venlafaxine 37.5mg modified-release tablets
- Tier 2 MSN for NovoRapid® PumpCart® (insulin aspart) 100units/ml solution for injection 1.6ml cartridges
- [SEL IMOC - Shortages](#) produces supporting information for primary care to manage significant medicines shortages.

PrescQIPP Updates

Bulletins

[Bulletin 369: Asthma](#) – This bulletin includes resources to support implementation of the new BTS, NICE, SIGN asthma guidelines

Webinars

- **PrescQIPP Prescribing Mastery - Menopause Session 2** on Tuesday 1st July 2025 1-2pm. For further information and to register see [here](#).
- **Pain Management & Deprescribing Training Event For Pharmacists** - Tuesday 15th July 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM at Kingswood House, Seeley Drive, Southwark, SE21 8QN. For further information and to register, please email j.sangani@nhs.net.
- **Specialist Pharmacy Service Biosimilar and key generic medicines July 2025 update** – 9th July 2025 1-2pm. For further information and to register, please see [here](#).

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)

- To access SPS publications, please register or login [here](#).
- For new guidance published in May please see [here](#), including: [Considerations for using medicines following bariatric surgery](#)

MEDICINES OPTIMISATION

Optimise RX – most missed savings May 2025

- DPP-4 inhibitors - consider sitagliptin for new patients
- Buprenorphine 5 and 10 microgram/hour 7-day patches - consider switching to Bunov®, Reletrans® or Sevodyne®
- Doxazosin 8mg tablets - consider 2 x 4mg tablets
- Metformin 1g standard-release tablets – consider switching to metformin 1g modified-release tablets

MHRA Drug Safety Update June 2025

- [IXCHIQ Chikungunya vaccine: temporary suspension in people aged 65 years or older](#) - The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) has temporarily restricted use of the IXCHIQ Chikungunya vaccine in people aged 65 years and over following very rare fatal reactions reported globally. This is a precautionary measure while the MHRA conducts a safety review.
- [Valproate \(Belvo, Convulex, Depakote, Dyazantil, Epilim, Epilim Chrono or Chronosphere, Episenta, Epival, and Syonell▼\)](#): updated safety and educational materials to support patient discussion on reproductive risks

MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Notification: Dulcolax® Adult 5 mg Gastro-resistant Tablet

Opella Healthcare UK Ltd has informed the MHRA of an error on the carton of Dulcolax® Adult 5mg GR Tablets. It incorrectly states for use in 12 years and older. These general sale packs are for use only in adult patients. Full information can be found [here](#).

New and Updated NICE Guidelines

- [NICE Guideline \[CG150\] Headaches in over 12s: Diagnosis and management](#) – **updated**
- [NICE Guideline \[NG192\] Caesarean birth](#) – **updated**
- [NICE Guideline \[NG235 Intrapartum care\]](#) – **updated**
- [NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance \[TA1067\] Linzagolix for treating symptoms of endometriosis](#).

BNF Update

Significant changes

[Chloroquine](#) – updated pregnancy and breast-feeding advice when used for rheumatic disease.

[Contraceptives, hormonal](#) – inclusion of guidance for use of combined oral contraceptives for preventive treatment of ovarian cancer in at-risk females.

[Hydroxychloroquine sulfate](#) – updated pregnancy and breast-feeding advice

[Malaria, prophylaxis](#) – updated guidance.

[Sepsis](#) – updated guidance on management.

[Sympathomimetics](#) – updated guidance for septic shock.

[Tuberculosis](#) – updated guidance for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Dose Changes:

- [Colchicine](#) – update to dosing for prophylaxis of familial Mediterranean fever
- [Sodium hyaluronate with trehalose](#) – update to dosing for dry eye conditions

Contact Details

Medicines Optimisation: greenwich.pharmacy@selondonics.nhs.uk

Primary Care: Nicky Skeats: Nicky.Skeats@selondonics.nhs.uk

System Development: Jo Hare: joannehare@selondonics.nhs.uk

Quality Alert reporting form can be found [here](#)

Appendix 1 - NEWSLETTER EXTENSION

SOUTH EAST LONDON INTEGRATED MEDICINES OPTIMISATION (SEL IMOC) UPDATE

New:

- A SEL [Acute Provider Collaborative \(APC\) primary and secondary care general surgery guideline](#) has been developed to support the diagnosis and management of general surgery conditions including the management of anal fissure. In line with this, [the SEL IMOC anal fissure pathway](#) has been retired.
- [Formulary recommendation 156](#) – Diltiazem 2% cream for the management of anal fissures has been re-categorised from **RED** (*hospital only*) to **AMBER 1** (specialist initiation) in line with the [APC primary and secondary care general surgery guideline](#).

Updated:

- In line with the recently approved [chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension pharmacological treatment pathway](#), the [SEL Joint Medicines Formulary \(SEL JMF\)](#) has been updated to reflect the categorisation of prostaglandin analogues, beta blockers, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, alpha adrenergic inhibitors and miotic eye drops as **AMBER 2** (*specialist initiation*).
- The SEL [APC urology primary care guidelines](#) have been updated, the main update includes, the addition of 5mg daily tadalafil as **AMBER 1** (*specialist initiation*) and the categorisation of when required sildenafil and tadalafil as **GREEN** (*primary or secondary care initiation*). In line with this the [SEL JMF](#) has been updated to reflect the above categorisations.
- [Formulary recommendation 012](#)- Diltiazem 2% cream for post-operative anal spasm, has been updated to remove the anal fissure indication due to the recategorisation of diltiazem 2% cream to **AMBER 1** in anal fissure. Diltiazem 2% cream for post operative anal spasm remains as **RED** (*hospital only*).
- The [SEL IMOC workplan](#) has been updated for 2025/2026 and focuses on four main distinct areas this year. Please see workplan for further details.