

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 100

Date: 25 April 2024

## Safety guidance

### 1. Local incidences of failed “cancellations” of electronic (EPS) scripts

On occasion, a prescription may need to be cancelled or replaced with a different item. EPS allows for this, but only if it has not yet been downloaded by a dispenser. If it has been downloaded, the pharmacy should be contacted promptly to agree appropriate further action.

There have been local incidents of duplicated medicines with wrong strengths /doses dispensed, when EPS cancellations have been rejected by EPS, as the items have already been downloaded by the dispenser. The prescriber has reissued a new item, presuming the cancellation has occurred, when practically, it has not. It is therefore essential to check the resultant EPS cancellation message, to ascertain whether the cancellation has gone through correctly.

For further details see NHS Digital website: Cancelling an electronic prescription [LINK](#)

### 2. MHRA patient information leaflet (PIL) for fluoroquinolone antibiotics [LINK](#)

The MHRA have updated their PIL for fluoroquinolones (regarding tendons, muscles, joints, nervous system, and psychological side effects). For a reminder of the fluoroquinolone MHRA drug safety alert, dated January 2024, please see [LINK](#)

HIOW ICB - Fluoroquinolone prescribing safety efforts:

1. **Knowledge refresh:** Red Whale have produced two succinct updates on fluoroquinolones: [Red Whale | Quinolones...just say no to systemic -floxacin!](#) [Red Whale | The one time we might, for now, say yes to -floxacin: acute prostatitis...](#)
2. **AccuRx:** We are in discussions with AccuRx to add a template as standard to support clinicians in primary care to share this PIL with patients if there is a need to prescribe a fluoroquinolone.
3. **Ardens:** A request for the Clinical Safety Alert in EMIS Web for fluoroquinolones is with Ardens to include a link to the new MHRA PIL (Note: Ardens S1 team do not produce these pop-up alerts).
4. **SCAN:** Re 'acute prostatitis' guidance, SCAN are temporarily referring to [NICE guidance NG110](#) until there is further national guidance on prescribing in this indication.

## Local guidance

### 3. Latest update to SCAN guidelines [LINK](#)

South Central Antibiotic Network (SCAN) guidelines were updated on 5 April 2024 to include:

- Minor updates to [Leg Ulcers](#)
- Updated [Basis For Recommendations](#)
- Updated [Infective Conjunctivitis \(CHILDREN\)](#)
- Updated [Community Acquired Pneumonia \(CAP\) \(CHILDREN\)](#)
- Updated [Influenza \(CHILDREN\)](#)

### 4. Shortage of GLP-1 receptor agonists update [LINK](#)

Updated in March 2024, advice flow charts now include Rybelsus® (semaglutide) oral tablets or Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) Kwikpen as alternatives. This reflects latest national shortage guidance, accessible via SPS Medicines supply tool (free registration) via [LINK](#)

### 5. Respiratory – New Wessex Asthma Guidelines

The new Wessex Adult & Adolescent Asthma Guidelines are now finalised and can be found on the HIOW ICB website here: [LINK](#)

The new Paediatric Asthma Guidelines will be added soon.

HIOW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team are hosting a series of two Respiratory Masterclasses to support practices and healthcare professional:

#### **Respiratory Masterclass Part 1: Introducing the new Wessex Adult & Adolescent Asthma Guidelines**

8th May 2024 MS Teams 1-2pm

Speaker: Dr Tom Brown Consultant Respiratory Physician & Deputy Director of Research Portsmouth Hospitals

To register: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b9e5f42c-eddc-4666-911a-b2d0674b7503@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

#### **Respiratory Masterclass Part 2: Introducing the new Wessex Paediatric Asthma Guidelines**

22nd May 2024 MS Teams 12-1pm

Speakers: Dr Gary Connett Paediatric Respiratory Consultant UHS, Stephanie Harper Paediatric Respiratory Nurse Specialist, Emma Ray Clinical Practice Educator: Children and Young People with Asthma HIOW

To register: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/c0d2d213-69a6-4a54-adc3-1cc60861fd91@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Both sessions are open to pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, community pharmacists, respiratory nurses, GPs and any healthcare professional involved in the respiratory care of patients in HIOW. (You may need to copy and paste the meeting link into Google Chrome to register)

## National guidance

### 6. Position statement: Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT) shortage [LINK](#)

Position statement and advice for prescribers and patients from the Nutrition Interest Group of the Pancreatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (NIGPS), Cystic Fibrosis Specialist Group, Gastroenterology Specialist Group and British Dietetic Association was released on 26 March 2024.

### 7. UK Health Security Agency - Hepatitis B: the green book, chapter 18 - update [LINK](#)

This chapter has been updated to remove the single booster dose in healthy immunocompetent adults who have completed a primary course. Advice has been added for pre-exposure vaccination of recipients of solid organ transplants. More detail on assessing occupational risk and inclusion of two new adult vaccines have been included.

### 8. Management of unscheduled bleeding on hormone replacement therapy (HRT) [LINK](#)

This joint guideline has been prepared on behalf of the British Menopause Society, in partnership with the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy, British Gynaecological Cancer Society, Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare, Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) and the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists.

The guideline provides recommendations which stratify management for unscheduled bleeding according to risk of endometrial cancer. It has been issued in response to increasing reports of patients presenting with unscheduled vaginal bleeding on HRT.

### 9. NHS England Clinical Commissioning Policy for Children and Adolescents with Gender Incongruence. [LINK](#)

NHS England has decided that Puberty Suppressing Hormones are not routinely commissioned for children and adolescents with gender incongruence outside of a recognised research trial. Please see the link above for the Clinical Commissioning Policy.

## NICE guidelines

### 10. Endometriosis: diagnosis and management – updated guidance (NG73) [LINK](#)

This guideline covers diagnosing and managing endometriosis. It aims to raise awareness of the symptoms of endometriosis, and to provide clear advice on what action to take when women and people with signs and symptoms first present in healthcare settings. It also provides advice on the range of treatments available.

## Other

### 11. Genomics and Prescribing [LINK](#)

Please note the Genomics and Prescribing section on the ICB website has been updated. It now provides links to useful resources for primary care staff.

The use of pharmacogenomics in primary care is currently being piloted in England. The Genomic Medicines Service Alliance (GMSA) are looking for one PCN or one practice outside of the Northwest of England who may like to take part in phase two of the PROGRESS Pharmacogenomics Pilot Study in GP practice. If your GP practice is interested and would like further details, please contact your Medicines Optimisation Team.

**Prepared by Anita Bhardwaj, Sue Wakelin and Dr Emma Harris  
On behalf of Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB Medicines Optimisation Teams**

Local medicines optimisation teams can be contacted via their generic team mailbox: See [LINK](#)  
*Previous bulletins can be found hosted on the ICS website here: [link](#)*