

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 114

Date: 28 April 2025

Safety guidance

- 1. MHRA drug safety update: Short-acting beta 2 agonists (SABA) (salbutamol and terbutaline): reminder of the risks from overuse in asthma and to be aware of changes in the SABA prescribing guidelines [LINK](#)**

Healthcare professionals and patients are reminded of the risk of severe asthma attacks and increased mortality associated with overuse of SABA with or without anti-inflammatory maintenance therapy in patients with asthma. Healthcare professionals should be aware of the change in guidance that no longer recommends prescribing SABA without an inhaled corticosteroid.

This complements the work undertaken through the Medicines Optimisation Incentive Scheme (MOIS) 2024-25.

- 2. MHRA drug safety update: Fezolinetant▼(Veoza): risk of liver injury; new recommendations to minimise risk [LINK](#)**

Fezolinetant is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with the menopause. Fezolinetant treatment is associated with a risk of drug induced liver disease. New recommendations have been introduced to minimise this risk. Liver function should be monitored before and during treatment in all patients taking fezolinetant. Fezolinetant should be avoided in patients with known liver disease or at a higher risk of liver disease.

This is currently non formulary for Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Local guidance

- 3. Locally Commissioned Service (LCS) for Inclisiran (Leqvio®)**

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight now has a primary care LCS for the prescribing and administration of inclisiran (sub-cutaneous injections), in suitable patients to treat primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia. This is in line with national lipid management pathway [LINK](#).

This LCS provides an annual fee to practices per patient receiving inclisiran through their GP practice. There is also some accompanying prescribing information here [LINK](#)

NHS England has renegotiated an agreement with Novartis for continued access to inclisiran at the same price for current and new NHS patients until December 2027. Letter, guidance on funding and supply arrangements and summary presentation on lipid management are provided in this [LINK](#)

National guidance

4. SPS: Developing opioid safety across a system [LINK](#)

This helpful, collective resource supports healthcare professionals in taking actions to promote the safer use of opioids for chronic, non-cancer pain. It aims to equip healthcare professionals with insights, support, and shared learning, to address practice with opioids that may lead to harm.

5. Guidance on shared care agreements with unregulated providers for children and young people with gender incongruence

NHS England has cascaded new guidance that advises general practitioners against shared care agreements with unregulated providers in relation to hormone medication to children and young people under 18 as a response to gender incongruence / gender dysphoria.

The guidance outlines that:

- A GP must refuse to support the private prescribing or supply of GnRH analogues.
- A GP should refuse to support an unregulated provider in the prescribing or supply of alternative medications that may be used to suppress pubertal development.
- A GP should refuse to support an unregulated provider in the prescribing of exogenous hormones.

The cascaded letter states an unregulated provider is one that is not registered with, or regulated by, a UK health regulator such as the *Care Quality Commission* or *Health Inspectorate Wales*. More information is available in the letter.

In all cases, safeguarding measures should be considered where the administration of a medicine from an unregulated source presents an immediate safety risk.

NICE guidelines

6. Early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management – updated guidance (NG101) [LINK](#)

This guideline covers diagnosing and managing early and locally advanced breast cancer. Following a review of the evidence, it includes new and updated recommendations on neoadjuvant treatment and gonadal function suppression.

Other

7. UKHSA launches campaign to tackle misconceptions on antibiotics [LINK](#)

The UKHSA has launched a digital campaign aimed primarily at young adults to help keep antibiotics working and tackle the threat of antibiotic resistance. The campaign will be led by a new comedic mascot character called Andi Biotic and will run through April and May.

**Prepared by Anita Bhardwaj, Sue Wakelin and Dr Emma Harris
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB Medicines Optimisation Team**

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](#)