

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 123

Date: 5 November 2025

## Safety guidance

### 1. Isotretinoin – updates to prescribing guidance and survey of services [LINK](#)

The Commission on Human Medicines has endorsed changes to isotretinoin prescribing guidance. To monitor adherence to risk minimisation measures, services prescribing isotretinoin for the treatment of acne will be asked to complete a baseline survey by 16 November 2025.

### 2. Considerations and interactions with GLP-1 receptor agonists [LINK](#)

This resource signposts key risks and interactions of GLP-1 receptor agonists in diabetes, obesity and weight management. The resource provides guidance on considerations such as switching products and drug interactions, including contraception and time critical medications such as digoxin and levodopa.

## Local guidance

### 3. Over the Counter Position Statement and Patient Information Leaflet

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System position statement on prescribing of medicines available to purchase over the counter (OTC) for self-limiting and minor health conditions is now available on the ICB website. [LINK](#)

A supporting Patient Information Leaflet is also available. [LINK](#)

### 4. New Midwifery-Led Antibiotic Supply for Uncomplicated UTIs in Pregnancy in Southampton

From 1 October 2025, a Patient Group Directive (PGD) is in place allowing community midwives to supply antibiotics for culture-confirmed, uncomplicated UTIs in pregnancy in the Southampton area. This is supported by: A standard operating procedure (SOP), Midwife training and competency assessments and the approved PGD.

Key Criteria for the PGD include:

- Positive urine culture confirming uncomplicated UTI
- Symptomatic patients who present in the absence of a culture result will be directed to the most appropriate service for treatment on the day.

## National guidance

### 5. College of Sexual and Reproductive Health (CoSRH) remind practitioners that analgesia must be offered for all IUD insertions to avoid women experiencing severe pain [LINK](#)

In response to a report which found 1 in 3 women experience excruciating pain during IUD insertion, the CoSRH reminds practitioners to follow their guidance and ensure that analgesia is offered, and women can ask questions, request a pause, or stop the procedure at any point.

### 6. UK HSA Vaccine update: issue 363, September 2025 [LINK](#)

This issue includes:

- shingles vaccine eligibility for immunocompromised people aged over 18
- meningococcal B vaccination for protection against gonorrhoea
- changes to the routine childhood schedule since July 2025
- introduction of the routine mpox vaccination programme
- vaccine supply

## Other

### 7. Expansion of NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service

The NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service has been expanded to include emergency contraception from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Key changes to the service:

- Addition of oral emergency contraception (EHC) to the service offer.
- Pharmacy technicians are now able to provide the service following completion of training and Declaration of competence.
- Drospirenone has been added to the list of contraceptives that can be supplied.

The Emergency Contraception Service is free to access under the national NHS service and supports patients seeking urgent or same-day appointments. Please signpost any requests for emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) to a community pharmacy.

Across NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW), 96% of pharmacies provide this service. Patients can find their nearest participating pharmacy here: [Find a pharmacy that offers the contraceptive pill without a prescription - NHS](#)

### 8. Expansion of the NHS New Medicine Service (NMS)

The NHS New Medicine Service (NMS) has been expanded to include depression as an additional therapeutic area from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

This means that patients newly prescribed antidepressant medication can now receive support from their community pharmacy under the NMS. The service aims to help patients get the best from their medicines through improved understanding, adherence, and ongoing support.

Further details are available in the Advanced Service Specification – NHS New Medicine Service (NMS) on the NHS England website [LINK](#)

## 9. Discontinuation of Glucagon (ogluo®) solution for injection pen

Glucagon 500micrograms/0.1ml solution for injection pen and Glucagon 1mg/0.2ml solution for injection pre-filled pen have been discontinued.

Prescribers are advised:

- not initiate new patients on glucagon (Ogluo) 500micrograms/0.1ml solution for injection pen or glucagon (Ogluo) 1mg/0.2ml solution for injection pre-filled pen;
- consider prescribing glucagon (GlucaGen Hypokit) 1mg powder and solvent for solution for injection vials

Glucagon (GlucaGen Hypokit) 1mg powder and solvent for solution for injection vials remains available.

The SPS Medicines Supply tool (free to register) can be accessed here: [LINK](#)

## 10. SLS endorsement requirements removed for Tadalafil and Vardenafil [LINK](#)

From 1 October 2025, **generically written** prescriptions for Tadalafil and Vardenafil preparations will no longer require the prescriber 'SLS' endorsement. However, the SLS endorsement requirements will continue to apply to the following branded versions – Cialis® and Levitra® which may only be ordered on NHS prescriptions issued for the treatment of erectile dysfunction in restricted circumstances.

If the prescriber 'SLS' endorsement is missing on NHS prescriptions for Cialis® and Levitra®, the prescription should be returned to the prescriber to have the endorsement added. Pharmacy staff cannot add the 'SLS' endorsement to a prescription; only the prescriber can do this.

For EPS prescriptions, the prescriber must use the SLS endorsement function available on their prescribing system. Prescribers must not add 'SLS' as free text into any other fields for example dosage instructions or 'additional instructions' field also known as medication specific information or notes to pharmacy as this information is not read by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). On FP10 paper prescriptions for Cialis® and Levitra®, the prescriber must endorse 'SLS' against the item.

Please note generic prescriptions are preferred and branded prescribing is not recommended.

The full list of 'SLS' products and prescribing criteria found in Part XVIII B of the [October 2025 Drug Tariff](#).

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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](#)*