

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 69

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1. MHRA drug safety update: Denosumab 60mg (Prolia): should not be used in patients under 18 years due to the risk of serious hypercalcaemia ([Link](#))

Serious and life-threatening hypercalcaemia has been reported with denosumab 60mg (Prolia) in children and adolescents in clinical trials for osteogenesis imperfecta and during off-label use. Denosumab 60mg (Prolia) is authorised for use in adults with osteoporosis and other bone loss conditions – it should not be used in children and adolescents younger than 18 years. Please see the link above for further details.

2. Cardiovascular disease webinars – message from the Primary Care Cardiovascular Disease Optimisation Group

We welcome you to a series of three MS Teams meetings over the summer to cover key areas of the cardiovascular disease prevention agenda which is an important part of the NHS England Long Term Plan and integral to the delivery of the PCN DES IIF.

To register for webinar 1: Hypertension Matters :Wed 15th June 1 - 2pm please follow [this link](#).

Webinar 1: Hypertension Matters - Wed 15th June 1-2 pm will cover:

1. Hypertension - Why it is important and the HIOW perspective - Dr Hannah Morgan, SE Cardiac Network (NHSEI) and local GP
2. Hypertension diagnosis and management - Dr Alastair Bateman, GP CCG Clinical lead, Primary Care CVD Optimisation group Chair and NICE Medicines associate
3. Practical aspects of searching and prioritising patients in primary care – Liz Corteville, South West System Lead Pharmacist and Deputy to the Associate Director – Medicines Optimisation, NHS Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG
4. Discussion, questions and problem-solving - all

Anyone working in any practice in HIOW is welcome to attend.

The webinars will be covering both clinical and practical aspects of delivering primary cardiovascular care.

These sessions are intended to be for all members of the practice, PCN or CCG Medicines Optimisation teams involved in cardiovascular care. This includes GPs, practice nurses, pharmacy professionals, healthcare assistants, health and wellbeing coaches, social prescribers, paramedics and administrators.

Coming soon:

- Webinar 2: Edoxaban and preventing stroke in atrial fibrillation – **Wed 6th July 1-2pm**
- Webinar 3: Familial hypercholesterolaemia – **Thu 22nd Sep 1-2pm**

3. SPS: Prescribing available HRT products ([Link](#))

Specialist Pharmacy Service provide a summary of available HRT products. This resource should be used in conjunction with the NICE CKS on appropriate use of HRT and British Menopause Society advice.

4. PSNC: Additional Serious Shortage protocols for HRT now in place [LINK](#)

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of some Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) medicines, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a further **ten** new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs). Following the three HRT SSPs issued at the end of April 2022, the ten new SSPs, introduced with immediate effect, allow community pharmacists to consider different options to enable continued supply of HRT medicines to mitigate the ongoing supply disruptions affecting certain HRT medicines. These options may include substituting for alternative available products according to the protocols. Further information is available on the NHSBSA website [LINK](#)

5. Testogel® supply

Testogel® 50mg/5ml sachets have been discontinued and are now available as Testogel® 40.5mg/2.5ml sachets.

For adult and elderly **men**:

Each sachet provides a dose of 2.5g of gel (i.e., 40.5 mg of testosterone). The entire contents of one sachet should be applied once daily at about the same time, preferably in the morning. The daily dose should be adjusted up or down by the physician depending on the clinical or laboratory response in individual patients, not exceeding 81 mg of testosterone per day (2 sachets i.e., 5 g of gel). The adjustment of posology should be achieved by approximately 1.25 g of gel (half sachet) steps.

For **women** as HRT:

The British Menopause Society have updated their guidance ([Link](#)) to include the new formulation of Testogel®. The new 40.5 mg/2.5ml sachet could be administered off-label over 8 days (1/8th of a sachet will deliver 5 mg) and this is contained in a smaller volume of gel.

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On behalf of the Hampshire, Southampton and IoW CCG Medicines Optimisation
Team**

Previous bulletins can be found at: <https://gp-portal.westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/medicines/covid-19-medicines-information/covid-19-medicines-optimisation-bulletins/>