

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 78

Date: 21st December 2022

## Round up of Group A Strep resources

As guidance is rapidly changing, clinicians should ensure that they access the latest guidance.

1. **Local UHS Primary Care Advice in Response to Amoxicillin oral suspension shortage for Group A Strep Infection (attached).** These are interim guidelines approved by Dr Derek Sandeman (Chief Medical Officer, HIOW ICS) for use across HIOW and have been sent to all community pharmacies.



UHS Group A  
Streptococcus alterr

2. **NHSE National interim clinical guidance: Group A streptococcus in children:** [LINK](#)

Updated on 16th December, two key documents:

- Group A streptococcus in children – interim clinical guidance summary UKHSA, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, NICE, RCPCH and RCGP. This interim clinical guidance update is aimed at clinicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of children up to the age of 18 years and follows the UKHSA report released on 2 December 2022.
- Group A streptococcus in children – summary NHS England. To be read in conjunction with the above UKHSA/NHS England joint guidelines

3. **NHSBSA: Serious Shortage Protocols (SSP) for Phenoxymethylpenicillin** [LINK](#)

Community pharmacies are now able to flexibly substitute alternative formulations of phenoxymethylpenicillin and alternative antibiotics, according to local availability, under the terms of the eight new SSPs published on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

4. **HIOW - Antibiotic Stocks in Community Pharmacy**

The HIOW ICB medicines optimisation teams have worked with the LPC and community pharmacy teams across HIOW to set up WhatsApp messaging groups to support communication between community pharmacies (and surgeries) as to current stock holdings of the antibiotics used to treat Strep A. This enables pharmacists to signpost prescribers and patients to a pharmacy that has stock.

In addition, the medicines optimisation teams have set up spreadsheets (using either Google Sheets, Google Docs or SharePoint) that enable community pharmacists to update their stock during the day so that stock holdings are as up to date as possible.

Details of how to access these spreadsheets for each locality can be obtained through your local ICB medicines optimisation team. We encourage community pharmacies to continue to update the stock sheets at this time. [hiowicb-hsi.so.medicinesmanagement@nhs.net](mailto:hiowicb-hsi.so.medicinesmanagement@nhs.net)

## 5. NHS Digital - Medicine supply issues and use of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) ([Link](#))

Please follow the link above to guidance for prescribers and dispensers on how to use EPS effectively to help patients when there are medicine supply issues.

## 6. DHSC: Medicines Supply Notice; Antibiotics for the treatment of Group A Strep

National advice released on 12<sup>th</sup> December regarding supply issues. See embedded document



MSN\_2022\_105  
Antibiotics for the tr

## 7. SCAN guidelines and resources – the antibiotic choices currently differ slightly from the UHS guidance above but are being updated regularly. Please refer to the [Microguide App](#) for the latest version.

- New folder [UKHSA - Urgent public health message: Invasive Group A Strep 2/12/22](#)
- New section [Access to antibiotic liquids](#)
- Antimicrobial alerts updated to include [UKHSA - Urgent public health message: Invasive Group A Strep 2/12/22](#)
- Paediatric guidelines including amoxicillin updated to include advice about what to do if difficult accessing amoxicillin liquid
- FeverPAIN score guidance updated in [Tonsillitis \(CHILDREN\)](#)

## 8. SPS Advice: Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children

[Using solid oral dosage form antibiotics in children – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

## 9. Teaching your child to swallow tablets

[Teaching your child to swallow tablets :: Healthier Together \(what0-18.nhs.uk\)](#)

## 10. NEWT guidelines

The information on this site is intended as a guide to administration of medication to patients with swallowing problems. Such administration is usually outside the product licence.

[NEWT Guidelines](#) Contact your local ICB Medicines Optimisation Team for access.

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

Previous bulletins can be found at: <https://www.hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk/your-health/medicines-optimisation/information-health-care-professionals/hiow-medicines-optimisation-bulletins>

