



**Specialist
Pharmacy
Service**

NHS

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest March 2023

**Resources to support healthcare
professionals working in all areas
of the health system**

*** Please share with the wider team ***

**The first stop
for professional
medicines advice**

www.sps.nhs.uk





HOT TOPICS

Assurance of aseptic preparation of medicines: new guidance has been published by NHSE relating to the Assurance of aseptic preparation of medicines. This guidance sets out the governance and regulatory arrangements for aseptic preparation of medicines for NHS patients in England and replaces the 1997 NHS Executive letter EL(97)52, Aseptic dispensing in NHS hospitals.



HOT TOPICS

Following the JCVI announcement, we have updated our guidance and example SOPs to include the vaccines which will be used initially for the spring campaign in England. Additional materials will be published as other vaccines are deployed.

[Understanding the characteristics of Comirnaty Original / Omicron BA.4-5](#)

[vaccine](#): an overview of the Comirnaty Original / Omicron BA.4. 4-5 vaccine and signposts to other useful resources

[Preparing Comirnaty Original / Omicron BA.4-5](#): an example SOP for preparing Comirnaty Original / Omicron BA.4-5 vaccine

[Understanding the characteristics of VidPrevtyn Beta](#):

an overview of the VidPrevtyn Beta vaccine and signposts to other useful resources

[Preparing VidPrevtyn Beta vaccine](#): an example SOP for the preparation of VidPrevtyn Beta vaccine

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

[Patient Group Direction use in virtual ward services:](#) important considerations required before implementing Patient Group Directions (PGDs) for in virtual ward services

[Medicine administration by registered and non-registered staff:](#) practical guidance describing governance frameworks supporting the administration of medicines by registered and non-registered staff.

[Legal mechanisms to supply and administer medicines to individuals:](#) practical guidance describing the legal mechanisms under which medicines can be supplied/administered to patients.

[Managing the risks of using effervescent tablets in children:](#) best practice guidance to help reduce the risk of over and under dosing when administering part doses of effervescent or soluble tablets to children

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Treating urinary disorders while

breastfeeding: guidance on managing urinary disorders in breastfeeding mothers

Using ACE inhibitors during breastfeeding: guidance on using ACE inhibitors in breastfeeding mothers

Using amlodipine or MR felodipine for angina and

hypertension: guidance on choosing and switching between amlodipine and modified-release (MR) felodipine for angina and hypertension.

Identifying risk factors for developing a long QT interval: practical considerations for the safe use of medicines known to cause QT prolongation

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

[Antidepressant switching](#): guidance to help decision making surrounding antidepressant switching.

[Choosing between available adalimumab products](#): Understand the adalimumab products that are available on contract to the NHS. Choose between them appropriately for organisations or individuals.

[Biosimilars updates](#): provides information on biosimilar medicines with specific information on ranibizumab biosimilars for ocular use.

[Medication Safety Evidence Summaries: February 2023](#) - an observatory of the latest medicines safety information including national patient safety alerts, MHRA Drug Safety updates and more.

GOVERNANCE & REGULATORY

[Accessing the CAR-T training passport for clinical pharmacists:](#) Members of the Pan UK Pharmacy Working Group for ATMPs have collaborated with UK BMT (Bone Marrow Transplant) pharmacists to produce a CAR-T training passport

[Pharmacy Manual Checklist for Clinical Trials for ATIMPs:](#) guidance to aid optimal site implementation of ATIMP Clinical Trials.

[Accredited training for pharmacy staff within technical services:](#)

An overview of courses accredited by the NHS Aseptic Services Accreditation Group (ASAG) which support the training and development of Pharmacy staff involved in the preparation of aseptically-prepared products

WEBINARS & EVENTS

Previous events:

[Listen back](#) to our Medication Safety Across the System a "challenge for all" – Opioid Safety Webinar.

Upcoming events:

Chronic liver disease in primary care: an on the couch conversation. Thurs 27 April 13.00-14.00. [Register here](#)

PGD Learning events:

- New to PGDs? Join us on Tues 18 April 12.30-14.30 [Register here](#)
- If you just need to know what's changed or changing. Join us on Wed 10 May 13.00-14.00 [Register here](#)
- If you attend one of these sessions and still have a PGD question, the panel will answer them on Wed 17 May 13.00-14.00 [Register here](#)

RECOMMENDED IN PRIMARY CARE

Palliative care: Suggested resources to help primary care healthcare professionals find information to answer questions about medicines use in palliative care

Children's medicines: Suggested resources to help primary care healthcare professionals find information on medicines use in paediatrics

Poisoning and toxicity: Suggested resources to help primary care healthcare professionals to find information to answer questions about medicine toxicity or overdose

PLANNING

[New Medicines News](#) - Highlights recent new product launches and regulatory changes.

[New Product Evaluations](#) - Lists new product evaluations freely available to NHS staff.

[Medicines Supply Tool](#) - Information provided by DHSC and NHSE Medicines Supply Teams for medication shortages (you must be registered and signed into our website to access this resource).

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Remdesivir: All remaining stock has been allocated and only residual stock in Trusts remains. There is no intention for further central procurement. [NICE TA878 for treating covid-19 infection.](#)

IVIg: Due to a further decrease in available volumes of some IVIg products we have reverted to formal allocations. Trusts will be informed of allocations for April onwards. Please can Trusts ensure they purchase their allocations.

Alteplase: Allocations for April have been sent out to Trusts. The supply position remains constrained and cannot support any further increase in use.

Ceftazidime: There are supply issues with a number of suppliers for both 1g and 2 g strengths. To support stockpile product was released and this has all now been allocated to Trusts as needed.

SUPPLY

Epidural Bags: There is a supply issue with a range of epidural bags containing fentanyl and levobupivacaine or bupivacaine. A [National Patient Safety Alert](#) has been issued to guide Trusts on the management of this issue. Supply position going forwards across all products is being closely monitored.

Adalimumab: The new CMU framework goes live on 1st April. This is significantly different as it is now an open framework covering all products.

Ranibizumab: The new CMU framework goes live on 1st April. This now includes a further 2 biosimilar ranibizumab products.

Access to the SPS Medicines Advice Service

A single, national telephone number and email for the SPS Medicines Advice Service for primary care-based healthcare professionals, has now been launched.

Phone: 0300 770 8564

Email: asksps.nhs@sps.direct

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