

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

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Safety guidance

MHRA Drug Safety Alert: Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs): paediatric formulations; reminder of dose adjustments in patients with renal impairment [LINK](#)

Risk minimisation materials are available to support the safe use of new paediatric formulations of rivaroxaban (Xarelto) and dabigatran etexilate (Pradaxa). In addition, we ask healthcare professionals to consult the current advice to ensure that all patients with renal impairment receive an appropriate dose of DOAC medicines.

MHRA Drug Safety Alert: Febuxostat: updated advice for the treatment of patients with a history of major cardiovascular disease [LINK](#)

Caution is required if prescribing febuxostat in patients with pre-existing major cardiovascular disease, particularly, in those with evidence of high urate crystal and tophi burden or those initiating urate-lowering therapy.

Local guidance

Guidance for care homes on HIOW ICB website [LINK](#)

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB website is a useful source of information on Medicines Optimisation. The latest resources to be uploaded to the Medicines Optimisation pages for healthcare professionals include a new section for care homes (for those supporting or working within care services). Topics covered include:

- Audit tools
- CQC advice for care homes
- Medicines storage and handling
- Medicines supply and administration

The care homes section also highlights free and accessible resources via the partnership organisation PrescQIPP. This has many useful guidance documents including covert administration, bulk prescribing, homely remedies, medication and falls and antipsychotic use in dementia. Free registration is required via [LINK](#)

National guidance

NHSE : Valproate decision support tools for epilepsy [LINK](#) and bipolar disorder [LINK](#)

Two practical decision support tools have been produced by NHS England as part of an NHS-wide effort to reduce the use of valproate in people who can get pregnant, and to help those that do continue with valproate to prevent pregnancies.

NICE guidelines

Acne vulgaris: management – updated guidance [LINK](#)

Update clarifies recommendations on oral isotretinoin in line with recent MHRA advice on new safety measures to be introduced in the coming months, following the report of the Commission on Human Medicines Isotretinoin Expert Working Group. Recommendations include new warnings, the need for consistent monitoring requirements for psychiatric side effects, the introduction of new monitoring requirements for sexual side effects, and additional oversight of the initiation of treatment for patients younger than 18 years.

Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification – updated guidance [LINK](#)

Updated recommendations include risk assessment for primary prevention (including using QRISK3 tool), use of cardioprotective diets (total and saturated fat intake <30% and <7% total energy intake respectively) and management of musculoskeletal adverse effects of statins.

Other

DHSC: Medicine Supply Notification: Glucagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen®) [LINK](#)

GlucaGen® 1mg powder for injection kit will be unavailable from mid-June 2023 until mid-July. Where patients have insufficient supplies, healthcare professionals should prescribe/administer Ogluo® pre-filled auto-injector pen for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemic episodes.

DHSC: Medicine Supply Notification: Tresiba (insulin degludec) FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens. [LINK](#)

- Tresiba® FlexTouch® (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml pens will be out of stock from August 2023 until January 2024.
- Tresiba Penfill® (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges remain available and can support increased demand.
 - Tresiba Penfill® cartridges can be used with the NovoPen 6® and NovoPen Echo Plus® devices.
 - Ensure that patients have access to a suitable device and that the patient is thoroughly counselled on how to use this device.

DHSC: Shortage of pyridostigmine 60mg tablets [LINK](#)

Pyridostigmine 60mg tablets are out of stock until week commencing 12 June. GP practices and specialist clinical teams are to identify patients on treatment, and those with insufficient supplies to be referred to their prescriber for pyridostigmine 12mg/mL oral solution.

DHSC: Supply update: hormone replacement therapy medication Utrogestan® [LINK](#)

A serious shortage protocol, effective from 19th May 2023, has been issued across the UK, restricting supply of Utrogestan® 100mg capsules by pharmacists to a maximum of two months per prescription to help ensure continued access for women. [LINK](#)

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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](#)