

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 101

Date: 22 May 2024

## Safety guidance

### 1. MHRA: Finasteride: reminder of the risk of psychiatric side effects and of sexual side effects (which may persist after discontinuation of treatment) [LINK](#)

Introduction of patient cards for men taking finasteride and raising awareness of the risk of psychiatric side effects and sexual dysfunction.

### 2. MHRA: Montelukast: reminder of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions [LINK](#)

Reminder to healthcare professionals to be alert of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions in patients when prescribing montelukast and advice for patients to seek medical advice immediately, if neuropsychiatric reactions occur.

### 3. Revised SPC: Semaglutide-containing products (Wegovy, Ozempic, Rybelsus)

Summary of product characteristic (SPC) updated to include intestinal obstruction as an adverse drug reaction (frequency 'not known'). Section discussing lack of interaction with warfarin updated to include interaction between acenocoumarol and semaglutide-containing products.

Full details of the SPC can be found at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/>

### 4. Direct healthcare professional communication - Tresiba® FlexTouch® 100 units/mL solution for injection: update on supply shortage in the UK [LINK](#)

Shortage of Tresiba FlexTouch (TF) 100units/mL is now expected until at least end of 2024. Letter reiterates that people switched to TF 200units/mL should be made aware that TF pen delivery devices dial up in unit increments rather than volume and no dose change is necessary.

### 5. Change to Metoject® PEN device [LINK](#)

The delivery device for Metoject PEN (methotrexate) has changed to a button-free autoinjector PEN. More details about these features including patient training support material can be found here:

- <https://metoject.co.uk/patients/new-pen/>
- [https://metoject.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MDMET008\\_001-Admin-guides-Adult-digital-12pp\\_A5\\_1.0\\_AW.pdf](https://metoject.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MDMET008_001-Admin-guides-Adult-digital-12pp_A5_1.0_AW.pdf)

## National guidance

### 6. DHSC & NHSE: Influenza season 2023/24: ending the prescribing and supply of antiviral medicines in primary care [LINK](#)

The most recent UKHSA surveillance data indicates that circulation of influenza in the community has returned to baseline levels. Therefore, antivirals should no longer be prescribed for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza on an FP10 or supplied on presentation of an FP10.

### 7. Extension to serious shortage protocol (SSP059) for isosorbide mononitrate (Monomil® XL) 60mg modified-release tablets [LINK](#)

The serious shortage protocol (SSP) was issued in response to a significant ongoing disruption to the supply of Monomil® XL 60mg tablets. It was due to expire in on 3 May 2024 but the end date has now been further extended to Friday 31 May 2024.

### 8. FSRH Statement: Extended use of all 52mg Levonorgestrel (LNG) IUDs for up to eight years for contraception (May 2024) [LINK](#)

Following the change in licence of Mirena® to eight years, the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FSRH) have reconvened the Intrauterine Contraception (IUC) Guideline Development Group (GDG). Their new recommendations include :

- The FSRH IUC GDG support extended use of any 52mg LNG-IUD for up to eight years for contraception if the user is under 45 years old at the time of insertion.
- There is insufficient evidence to support use of any 52mg LNG-IUD beyond eight years for contraception. If an individual presents for replacement of the device after eight years, criteria for reasonably excluding pregnancy must be met, as per FSRH guidance.

Licences for the other indications remain unchanged.

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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](#)*