

Prescribing Notes



For Primary Care practitioners working in NHS Crawley and NHS Horsham and Mid-Sussex CCGs

November and December 2018

Quick Saving.

Sodium Chloride 5% Eye Ointment, please ensure that Sodium Chloride 5% eye ointment preservative free (Alissa Brand) is chosen as there is a saving of £5.87 per tube.

Drug Tariff Prices Specials:

Sodium Chloride 5% eye ointment £28.37 (5g).

Sodium Chloride 5% eye ointment (Alissa Healthcare) £22.50 (5g)

NSAID safety audit 2018-19

Practices may receive communication from Community Pharmacies regarding patients on NSAIDs who are not prescribed gastro protection. Pharmacies are taking part in a national NSAID safety audit as part of the Community Pharmacy Quality Payments Scheme (England). The audit is intended as a 'safety net' to check, any patients aged 65 or over, prescribed NSAIDs/COX2s have gastro-protection in place. The aim of this audit is to reduce preventable patient harm from adverse effects of NSAIDs.

Supplementary information on cannabis-based products for medicinal use

On 1st Nov 2018 cannabis based products were reclassified from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 and can therefore be prescribed in the UK for medicinal use.

Prescribing is restricted to specialist doctors on the Specialist register of the GMC. **And therefore there will be no prescribing in Primary care.** A set of clinical frequently asked questions (FAQs) is currently being prepared to provide further support to prescribers; once available these will be published [here](#).

Prescribing of Cannabis based products is currently limited to

- Children with rare forms of epilepsy and
- Adults with vomiting and nausea related to chemotherapy

Cannabis based products for medicinal use (CBPM) are classified as **RED** on the [CHMS formulary](#). NICE have been commissioned to provide guidelines for clinician on the use of CBPM this is expected by Oct 2019

Changes to the availability of gluten-free foods on NHS prescription

From the 4th December 2018 the only Gluten Free food available on NHS prescription are **GF bread** and **GF mixes**. This follows 2 consultations carried out by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in February and August 2018. GF biscuits, cereals, cooking aids, grains/flours and pasta can no longer be ordered on an FP10 as they have been added to part XVIII A of the Drug Tariff. (the Blacklist) and removed from the ACBS list. This means that food marketed as gluten-free or very low gluten may not be ordered on FP10 unless they are **gluten-free breads** or **gluten-free bread mixes**. The following is a link to the [CCG Gluten Free Formulary](#), which has been updated to reflect the change in the law. Prescribing of Gluten Free food within the CCG is limited to 8 units per month.

Current CCG holding position on Freestyle libre:

Prescribers should note that that **Freestyle Libre© remains BLACK – not to be prescribed**. This position will be reviewed when we have further guidance from NHSE on the recent policy announcement

NHS England announced in November that any patient with Type 1 diabetes who qualifies use of the device, in line with NHS clinical guidelines, will be able to get it on NHS prescription from their GP or local specialist team from 1 April 2019. [Diabetes Monitors](#).



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Update on adrenaline auto-injectors

The [interim protocol](#) on dispensing of adrenaline auto-injectors, 150microgram will no longer be in effect from Thursday 29th November 2018. There are now good stock levels available of all three brands of junior and adult adrenaline auto-injectors, (Jext, Epipen and Emerade). However, wholesaler prescription validation will remain in place for Epipen only until further notice. Further information on the wholesaler prescription validation can be found in the [Q&A](#) which was previously issued on 5 November 2018.

Naproxen 500mg & 250mg – Shortage/Not available

Please be aware of this shortage, although it is predicted some availability end of November, we encourage GPs follow our CCG [formulary choices](#) for those patients that temporarily need to be switched, considering gastro side effects and the cardiovascular risk factors if a new NSAID is introduced. Also please advise to buy OTC if patients are switched to Ibuprofen and the option of purchase it is appropriate

Hydrochlorothiazide: risk of non-melanoma skin cancer, particularly in long-term use

Advise patients taking hydrochlorothiazide-containing products of the cumulative, dose-dependent risk of non-melanoma skin cancer, particularly in long-term use, and the need to regularly check for (and report) any suspicious skin lesions or moles. Counsel patients to limit exposure to sunlight and UV rays and to use adequate sun protection.

Transdermal fentanyl patches: life-threatening and fatal opioid toxicity from accidental exposure, particularly in children

Provide clear information to patients and caregivers about how to minimize the risk of accidental exposure and the importance of appropriate disposal of patches. We continue to receive reports of unintentional opioid toxicity and overdose of fentanyl due to accidental exposure to patches.

Homelessness: duty to refer – for NHS staff

This guidance is for staff or clinical teams who meet and assess patients. It provides an overview of the duty to refer for NHS staff, including how to make a referral to a local authority. A [simple form](#) is available that can be used by public authorities to make a referral.

NIHR Signal: Insulin pumps offer little value over multiple injections for children at the onset of diabetes

Expert commentary is provided on a RCT of young people newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, which found that those receiving multiple daily insulin injections achieved similar blood glucose control by 12 months to those treated with an insulin pump.

**Merry
Christmas
&
A Happy New
Year!**



OTC campaign supporting information for practices

PrescQipp have produced an [OTC Quick Reference Guide](#) which provides some useful information on OTC sales including some licensing restrictions for some medicines which will prevent community pharmacies from selling items for Self-Care. i.e. Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment/ drops cannot be sold for use in children under 2 , or to pregnant or breastfeeding Mums.

Also see [link](#) for NHS England patient information leaflets for practices to use.

Paracetamol sales restrictions in pharmacies

Paracetamol capsules or tablets can be sold to the public provided packs contain no more than 32 capsules or tablets; pharmacists can sell multiple packs up to a total quantity of 100 capsules or tablets in justifiable circumstances. This means that, in practice, less than 100 non-effervescent tablets or capsules can be sold.

Vaccine ORDERING 2019-20 Influenza Season

. A letter has been issued to providers of seasonal flu immunization with preliminary information on the recommended vaccines for the 2019-20 vaccination programme.

Flu vaccination programme delivery guidance 2018-19

Previous guidance of delivery schedules of the flu vaccines and some FAQs around patient queries regarding the adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV).For the current Flu vaccination programme.