

IN THIS ISSUE

SPS and COVID-19 Vaccination programme	1
Impact of Priadel® Price Change on CCG Prescribing Budgets	1
Spotlight on RDTC stakeholder reports	1
Changes to drug licencing following UK exit from EU	2
New RDTC publication : Inhaler Carbon Impact Assessment Tool	2
The Cost of Constipation Report	2
Medicines availability information	3
What's new from RDTC	3
New and updated NICE advice	3
UK product launches	3

SPS and COVID-19 Vaccination programme

The remit of the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) is to make available to health care professionals in England, information and advice to inform local decision making as part of the pharmaceutical oversight required by the vaccination programme.

All the information produced about the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme is available in a [dedicated area of the SPS website](#). If you cannot find the answer to your question on the website, you can email SPS directly by using the “Ask a question” buttons on the site. Please keep in mind the following however:

- SPS are unable to respond to questions from the general public. Any questions relating to direct patient care will be directed to the relevant service in the vaccination programme.
- SPS cannot make decisions on behalf of others.
- SPS will make every effort to ensure that their advice will always be based on the best and most recent validated information available to them at the time.
- Where the topic under discussion is subject to legal or regulatory control, SPS’s advice cannot use information which has not been approved by the relevant regulator or legal team.
- In circumstances where vaccine manufacturers may have released information about their products in response to a direct enquiry by NHS staff, which has not been submitted to or reviewed by MHRA, SPS’s advice is unable to take this information into account or provide comment when formulating advice. Health care professionals who choose to use such information to inform their decision-making, do so entirely on their own professional responsibility and at their own risk.

Impact of Priadel® Price Change on CCG Prescribing Budgets

A Prescribing bulletin has been posted to the [RCTC website](#) to raise awareness of the NHS price increase for Priadel® (Lithium Carbonate) tablets as of November 2020 and the resulting cost impact to primary care.

Whilst discussions between the DHSC and the manufacturer of Priadel® have prevented the discontinuation of supply of Priadel® to the UK market at this stage, the renegotiated price in November 2020 has seen the cost of Priadel® tablets more than double from December 2020. This bulletin presents CCG-level prescribing data which aims to show the cost impact in primary care of the price increase for Priadel® (Lithium Carbonate) tablets as of November 2020.

Spotlight on RDTC stakeholder reports

Each newsletter we are going to include a few sentences describing one of the types of RDTC stakeholder level reports that are available as resources to support your work.

“Switch-Saving Calculators (SSCs)” are an RDTC stakeholder publication illustrating potential savings that could be realised through selected changes in prescribing. Many of the examples involve relatively simple switches from one formulation to another, with no change in drug or total daily dose. Other examples show the savings that could be made from switching to effective alternatives within the same therapeutic class.

Switch options are derived from the best available published evidence and referenced within the calculator. They are intended for use by primary care advisers and policy makers as an aid to informing policy discussion. The provision of a SSC should not be interpreted as endorsement of the therapeutic switch involved.

The SSC is updated with the latest drug tariff costs and available every Quarter on the [Prescribing Analysis Reports](#) section of the RDTC website.



@RDTC_Rx

Have you got a issue regarding medicines that you are unable to answer?

Contact our Medicines Information Service

0191 2824 631
or [email us](#)

We provide a comprehensive answering service to support NHS healthcare professionals in primary care deal with clinical questions across a wide range of therapeutic, pharmaceutical and pharmacological issues in primary care

Have an idea for a new document?

If you need a report, document, or prescribing data that we don't already produce, get in touch at nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net or tweet us at [@RDTC Rx](https://twitter.com/RDTC_Rx)

Changes to drug licencing following UK exit from Europe

On 1 January 2021 the UK left the EMA and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) became the UK's sovereign regulator. As a result, licensing of medicines in the UK has become more complex. Previously many drugs were licensed by the European Commission (EC), based on recommendations made by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Those marketing authorisations were then valid throughout the EU. This route is still available, but now requires extra steps in order for the EU decisions to be recognised in the UK. From January 2021 all marketing authorisations granted in the UK will require an application to be made to the MHRA, and there are at least six routes for applications to be processed:

- Innovative Licensing and Access Procedure (ILAP) – a new process to facilitate market and patient access to innovative medicines
- National Procedure (150 day procedure) – a direct application made to the MHRA for a new marketing authorisation
- Rolling review – a new route of application to the MHRA, in which applicants can submit their supporting information incrementally
- European Commission Decision Reliance Procedure (ECDRP) (67 day procedure) – a process by which applicants ask the MHRA to recognise decisions made by the centralised procedure. This route will be available until the end of December 2023.
- MR/DC Reliance Procedure (67 day procedure) – a process which by which applicants ask the MHRA to recognise decisions made by the EC's decentralised or mutual recognition procedures
- Unfettered Access from Northern Ireland (67 day procedure) – a process by which applicants ask for marketing authorisations granted in Northern Ireland to be recognised in Great Britain

Further information on each of these procedures is available from the [MHRA's website](#). Each applicant will be able to choose the application procedure they wish to use.

The RDTC will continue to produce our monthly horizon scanning document, which highlights newly licensed and launched medicinal products in the UK. We aim to publish this document by the end of the first full working week of each month. The most recent editions are available to NHS staff at stakeholder organisations from [our website](#); just log in then choose "Monthly Horizon Scanning Reports" from the drop down menu on the front page. If you have any questions about medicines licensing in the UK post-Brexit, we'll do our best to help; get in touch at nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net.

New RDTC publication : Inhaler Carbon Impact Assessment Tool

"Inhaler Carbon Impact Assessment Tool" is a new RDTC stakeholder publication, launched in December 2020.

The tool aims to provide the carbon impact alongside the financial impact of potential formulary inhaler choices. Stage 1 of this tool, which considers SABA inhalers, is now available on the [Respiratory reports](#) page of the RDTC website. (*Please contact RDTC to request log in details.*) The sections on SAMA, LAMA, LABA and ICS are in development and expected to be published in February.

This tool is supplemented by a Prescribing for Population Health (PPH) publication, titled 'Inhaler Carbon Footprint; Significance, Focus & Action' which will be published on the RDTC website in January 2021.

The Cost of Constipation Report

This new Cost of Constipation [Report](#) produced by the Bowel Interest Group updates the 2016 and 2019 reports and reveals the scale of the challenge that constipation currently presents to the UK. It not only explores the cost to the NHS, which is significant, but also how constipation can have a significant impact on patients' lives and the knock on effect to their health and wellbeing that can make life a misery.

In 2018/2019, 76,929 people were admitted in England with constipation, equivalent to 211 people a day and £168m was spent by NHS England on treating the condition, which is made up of emergency admissions and laxative prescriptions; these figures have increased since the 2017/2018 report with a rise of 7.7% in admissions and an increase of £6 million in spending.

Medicines Availability Information

Balneum Plus Bath Oil is out of stock until early February 2021. All other Balneum products remain available.

Promethazine 25mg tablets (Teva) are out of stock until April 2021. Phenergan 25mg tablets remain available from Sanofi.

Docusate sodium 100mg capsules Limited supplies are available until April 2021.

Docusate sodium 50mg/5ml oral solution remains available.

Ceftolozone/tazobactam (Zerbaxa) 1g/0.5g powder for infusion. MSD have issued a global recall of this product due to potential sterility issues. The UK recall notice and further information can be found [here](#)



What's new from RDTC

Publications

- Monthly Horizon Scanning
 - ◇ November, December 2020
 - ◇ January 2021
- Medicines in practice
 - ◇ Cardiovascular outcomes associated with SGLT2 inhibitors (2020 Update)
 - ◇ Cardiovascular outcomes associated with GLP1 receptor agonists (updated)
- Prescriber Support Tools
 - ◇ GLP 1 Agonists Comparison (update November 2020)

Topics in development

- New Drug Evaluation- Insulin Lispro (Lyumjev[®])
- New Drug Evaluation- estradiol spray

- (Lenzetto[®]) for menopausal symptoms
- Comparison tables – Combination Inhalers (LABA / LAMA)

Prescribing Analysis reports

The following reports are now available on the RDTC website:

- ◇ Top 50 Expenditure for April-September 2021
- ◇ Drugs in Diabetes (2020-21 Q1 & Q2)
- ◇ Dementia (2020-21 Q1 & Q2)
- ◇ Respiratory (2020-21 Q1 & Q2)
- ◇ Cardiovascular (2020-21 Q1 & Q2)
- ◇ Cost Comparison Charts
- ◇ Drug Tariff Monitor
- ◇ October Monthly Financial Headlines

New and updated NICE advice

Evidence Summaries

[ES31](#) : Antimicrobial prescribing: cefiderocol

Nice Guidance

[NG59](#): Lower back pain and sciatica in over 16's

[NG104](#): Pancreatitis

[NG17](#): Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management

[NG18](#): Diabetes (type 1 and type 2) in children and young people: diagnosis and management

[NG28](#): Type 2 diabetes in adults: management

[NG3](#): Diabetes in pregnancy: management from preconception to the postnatal period

[NG69](#): Eating disorders: recognition and treatment

Clinical Guidelines

[CG147](#): Peripheral arterial disease: diagnosis and management

[CG177](#): Osteoarthritis: care and management

UK product launches

Zonisamide (Desizon[®]) 20 mg/ml oral suspension. Indicated as mono- or adjunctive therapy for the treatment of partial seizures. This is the first licensed oral suspension to be marketed, previously available as a variety of specials.

Budesonide/formoterol fumarate (Symbicort[®]) 100mcg/3 mcg CFC free inhaler. Indicated in adults and adolescents (12 years and older) for the regular treatment of asthma, where use of a combination (inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting β_2 adrenoceptor agonist) is appropriate. Not licensed for COPD.

Indacaterol acetate/mometasone furoate (Ateectura Breezhaler[®]) capsules for inhalation. A once daily LABA/ICS indicated as a maintenance treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents (>12 years) not adequately controlled with inhaled corticosteroids and inhaled short-acting beta2-agonists.

Looking for something?

Our documents, reports, and other useful publications are all published on our website www.rdtc.nhs.uk

Drafts may be available on request

We need YOU!

We're always on the lookout for reviewers to comment on our draft publications. If you'd be interested, just [email us](#) and we'll add you to our reviewers list.

Specialise in a particular area?

We can tailor what we send you for review so that you only receive documents relevant to you

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY THE NHS FOR THE NHS:
NOT TO BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES