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RMOC Shared Care for Medicines Guidance

Following publication of the “RMOC Shared Care for Medicines Guidance – a Standard Approach”, the first set of draft shared care protocols have been developed by the RMOC Shared Care Working Group and are now [open for national consultation here](#).

The documents are intended to represent the minimum information required to support safe, effective sharing of prescribing of the specified drugs, and have been drafted in line with the agreed RMOC process using key sources such as the BNF, relevant Summaries of Product Characteristics, MHRA safety warnings, national guidance and specialist input.

The four medicines included in this first consultation are:

- Amiodarone
- Dronedarone
- Lithium
- Valproate medicines in women of child-bearing potential

The consultation will run for five weeks, and closes at 5pm on Friday 11th June. All comments are welcomed and will be considered and utilised to shape the final draft SCPs prior to their publication. Please use the template provided to make all comments. Comments should be sent to rmoc.north@nhs.net by the deadline above.

Haloperidol shortage

Following the discontinuation of Haloperidol 500mcg Capsules (Serenace®) in August 2020, the cost of Haloperidol 500mcg tablets have steadily risen; currently £131 for 28 tablets (Price correct for May 2021 Drug tariff). There are ongoing supply problems for other Haloperidol formulations. See the latest [Medicines Supply Notification MSN/2020/060](#) update for the current advice.

Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site

The MHRA is providing a dedicated coronavirus Yellow Card site for healthcare professionals and patients to report the following related to coronavirus treatment:

- suspected side effects to medicines
- suspected side effects of any current and future COVID-19 vaccines
- incidents involving medical devices

Please report to the dedicated [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#).

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.

“**Price Concessions Bulletin**” is an RDTC stakeholder publication produced monthly, illustrating the predicted cost impact of drug price changes, both through the monthly Price Concessions list and the monthly drug tariff (DT) cost variations. The report includes the Top 20 cost impact drugs on the price concessions drug list, a trend chart of the cost impact over the previous 3 years and the effect of price concession changes over time based on predicted net ingredient cost.

Development work is ongoing to incorporate the cost impact of Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) currently in place.

The Price Concessions Bulletins are available on the [Prescribing Analysis Reports](#) section of the RDTC website.



@RDTC_Rx

Chloramphenicol eye drops in children under 2 years

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists has published a safety alert statement in response to many manufacturers placing the following contraindication on their chloramphenicol eye **drops**:

'This medicinal product must not be given to a child less than 2 years old as it contains boron and may impair fertility in the future.'

At the present time, the College believes that the benefits of chloramphenicol eye drops in paediatric ophthalmic practice for appropriate indications and with courses of appropriate duration outweigh the possible risks posed by boron ingestion. The SPS website provides further information which can be found [here](#).

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](#)

Dysphagia and Medicines

A new interactive [training tool](#) has been developed by Health Education England to help social care staff and other carers support people who have challenges with swallowing their medicines. It will include techniques they can employ without onward referral, when and who to refer to and how to safely manage medicines for patients with dysphagia.

Further resources for pharmacists and other Health Care Professionals including the use of thickening agents, switching between solid and liquid formulations and consideration around crushing tablets can be found on the SPS website [here](#).

Discontinuation of Elleste Solo MX 40 and 80

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) for Elleste Solo MX 40 and 80 transdermal patches which are being discontinued and remaining supplies are expected to be depleted by October 2021 and July 2021, respectively.

Alternative brands of estradiol transdermal patches of different strengths remain available. DHSC will continue to provide updates on HRT availability in the monthly supply issues update which is uploaded to the [Specialist Pharmacist Services](#) (SPS) website (registration required).

PGD Learning Event 2021 - June Webinar dates

The annual Patient Group Directions (PGD) face-to-face conference is being replaced with a short series of three Webex events due to current circumstances.

Further information, dates and registration can be found on the SPS website [here](#).

Updated NICE guidance on atrial fibrillation

The updated [guideline](#) addresses several areas where new evidence has become available since publication of the previous guideline in 2014. These include the use of tools to calculate the risk of bleeding when considering the use of anti-clotting drugs (anticoagulants), the role of newer anti-clotting drugs, and the use of treatments that aim to destroy or isolate the abnormal sources of electrical impulses in the heart that may be driving AF (ablation).

Accurate knowledge of bleeding risk supports shared decision making and has practical benefits. Evidence shows that a tool called ORBIT is the most accurate one for predicting the risk of bleeding in people with AF. However, the guideline acknowledges that other bleeding risk tools, including HAS-BLED which NICE's previous guideline recommended, may need to be used until ORBIT is embedded in clinical pathways and electronic systems used by clinicians.

The guideline recommends that anticoagulation with drugs called direct-acting oral anticoagulants should be offered to people with AF who have a high risk of stroke, taking into account the risk of bleeding. For men with a moderate risk of stroke, the guideline recommends that anticoagulation with a direct-acting oral anticoagulant should be considered.

AF is the most common heart rhythm disorder (affecting approximately 2% of the adult population), and estimates suggest its prevalence is increasing. AF causes palpitations and breathlessness in many people but it may be silent and undetected. If left untreated it is a significant risk factor for stroke and other morbidities: it is estimated that it is responsible for approximately 20% of all strokes and is associated with increased mortality. Men are more commonly affected than women and the prevalence increases with age and in underlying heart disease, diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

Medicines Availability Information

Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide
300mg/12.5mg tablets are out of stock until mid-June 2021. Irbesartan 300mg tablets are available and can support an uplift in demand. An alternative thiazide diuretic, bendroflumethiazide 2.5mg, is available and can support an uplift in demand.

Fluticasone (Flixotide) 100mcg Accuhaler is out of stock until w/c 31 May 2021. Flixotide 50mcg Evohalers, 50 mcg Accuhalers and Flixotide 125mcg Evohalers remain available and can support a full uplift in demand.

Gemeprost (Cervagem)
1mg pessary is out of stock

until mid-July 2021. Clinical alternatives remain available.

Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules (Accord brand) is out of stock with resupply expected in August 2021. The brand, Praxilene, remains available and can support an uplift in demand.



What's new from RDTC

Publications

- **Monthly Horizon Scanning**
 - ◇ April 2021

Topics in development

- **New Drug Evaluation– estradiol spray (Lenzetto®) for menopausal symptoms**
- **Comparison tables – Combination Inhalers (LABA / LAMA)**
- **Prescribing for Population Health**
 - ◇ Carbon footprint of inhaled corticosteroids, LABAs, LAMAs and the impact of using combination inhalers for COPD & Asthma in adults.
 - ◇ Profile of Insulin pump Use over the last 5 years and the impact of freestyle Libre

Prescribing Analysis reports

The following reports are now available on the RDTC website:

- ◇ Top 50 Expenditure for April-December 2020
- ◇ Antibacterial Drugs (2020-21 Q1, Q2 & Q3)
- ◇ Drugs in Diabetes (2020-21 Q1, Q2 & Q3)
- ◇ Dementia (2020-21 Q1, Q2 & Q3)
- ◇ Respiratory (2020-21 Q1, Q2 & Q3)
- ◇ Cardiovascular (2020-21 Q1, Q2 & Q3)
- ◇ Drug Tariff Monitor (May 2021)
- ◇ February Monthly Financial Headlines
- ◇ Price concession bulletin (March & April 2021)
- ◇ Items not to be routinely prescribed (INRP) (Q3 2021)

New and updated NICE advice

Nice Guidance—new

[NG192](#): Caesarean birth

[NG193](#): Chronic pain (primary and secondary) in over 16s: assessment of all chronic pain and management of chronic primary pain

[NG194](#): Postnatal care

[NG195](#): Neonatal infection: antibiotics for prevention and treatment

[NG196](#): Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management

Nice Guidance—updated

[NG144](#): Cannabis-based medicinal products

[NG80](#): Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management

Clinical Guidelines—updated

[CG137](#): Epilepsies: diagnosis and management

[CG150](#): Headaches in over 12's: diagnosis and management

UK product launches

Natalizumab (Tysabri®) 150 mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe for subcutaneous administration only. Indicated as single disease modifying therapy in adults with highly active relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS).

Levofloxacin (Oxalux®) 5 mg/ml eye drops in single-dose containers. Does not contain any preservatives or potential sensitizers, indicated for topical treatment of bacterial external ocular infections in patients >1 year of age caused by levofloxacin susceptible microorganisms.

Peanut protein powder (Palforzia™) various strengths in capsules and sachets, indicated for the treatment of patients aged 4 to 17 years with a confirmed diagnosis of peanut allergy. Treatment may be continued in patients 18 years of age and older.

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](mailto:rdtc@nhs.uk) 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

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