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New RDTC website launched

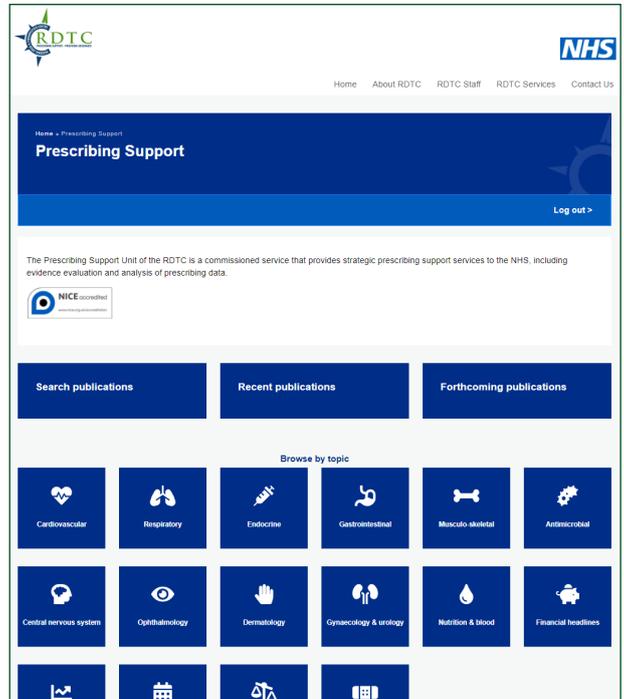
The RDTC website has been re-developed! The all-new site has the same content you know, but re-organised to make it faster and easier to find what you need with a few clicks. The web address hasn't changed—you can still find us at www.rdtc.nhs.uk.

The prescribing support section in particular has been re-arranged so you can view everything we produce in a therapeutic area with one click, or do a quick search to find exactly what you're looking for.

For a little more info on using the site, [visit our news page](#).

[You'll need to re-register](#) to use the new site, but the form is quick and easy to fill in, and we'll approve your new account as quickly as possible.

We hope you'll find the new site easy and intuitive to use, but if you have any questions or feedback we'd love to hear it. Get in touch at nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net, or drop us a message on Twitter at [@RDTC_Rx](https://twitter.com/RDTC_Rx)



Letter to women and girls taking sodium valproate

A [letter](#) has been sent to women and girls aged 12-55 who are currently prescribed sodium valproate, and containing important reminders of safety considerations such as contraception, pregnancy and regular prescribing reviews.

Data collected in England between April 2018 and September 2020 shows:

- **47,532** females (ages 0-54) were prescribed one or more prescriptions for valproate in one or more months within the reporting period
- **180** females were prescribed valproate while pregnant
- **238** females stopped receiving prescriptions of valproate prior to their pregnancy

All health care professionals have a role in supplying valproate safely. Valproate must not be used in any woman or girl able to have children unless there is a [pregnancy prevention programme \(PPP\)](#) in place.

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.

“Financial Headlines Reports” are an RDTC stakeholder publication produced monthly, illustrating year to date prescribing expenditure (including forecast expenditure and cost growth, actual cost growth relative to budget uplift, weighted per capita prescribing frequency and cost). Trend charts and breakdown of data to ICS, CCG or PCN level are available. Similarly, comparison with the 10 most similar CCGs and comparison at PCN level is also featured.

Development is ongoing to incorporate comparisons at ICS level. The Financial Headlines are [available through the RDTC website](#), now in their own dedicated section.



@RDTC_Rx

UPDATE : Chloramphenicol eye drops in children under 2 years old

Following a review of the available toxicological data and a calculation of daily exposure to boron from a typical dosing regimen, the [MHRA](#) have concluded that the balance between the benefits and risks of chloramphenicol eye drops containing borax or boric acid remains positive for children aged 0 to 2 years.

Chloramphenicol eye drops can be safely administered to children aged 0 to 2 years where antibiotic eye drop treatment is indicated.

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](#)

Using medicines safely and effectively in patients with swallowing difficulties

The Specialist Pharmacy Service has produced a [series of articles](#) to help pharmacy professionals to support the medicines needs of patients with swallowing difficulties. These pages include a step-wise approach and background to support selection of appropriate formulations. They include:

- Preparing and giving medicines for people with swallowing difficulties
- Giving medicines safely with food or thickened fluid
- Defining and identifying thickness of fluids and food
- Medicines suitable for adults with swallowing difficulties

NPSA: Inappropriate anticoagulation of patients with a mechanical heart valve

Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, published guidance supported clinical teams to review patients treated with a vitamin K antagonist (VKA) and where appropriate change their medication to an alternative anticoagulant (eg a low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) or a direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC)). This was partly to reduce the frequency of clinic attendance for monitoring, and thus reduce the risk to patients. The guidance listed exceptions where specific patients should not be switched from a VKA, including patients with a mechanical heart valve.

However, incidents have been reported of patients with a mechanical heart valve being switched to a LMWH or a DOAC. This [alert](#) asks GPs and other NHS providers of anticoagulation services to identify any patients who have a record of a mechanical heart valve and are receiving a DOAC, and to urgently review these patients to ensure they are on the most appropriate anticoagulation therapy and monitoring.

Webinar discussions on challenging areas of practice

The SPS will be hosting a series of Webex “on the couch” discussions to enable primary care pharmacy colleagues to access specialist pharmacist expertise. The first of these is entitled “**Medicines Information: the art of asking the right questions before contacting your local MI service**”. A recording of the event can be found [here](#).

To register your interest in further events visit the SPS [website](#). A 15-minute recording to introduce the series (recommended) can be accessed [here](#).

Antimicrobial prescribing for urinary tract infections: New e-learning now available

Health Education England elearning for healthcare (HEE elfh), in partnership with PHE, NHSE and NHSI, the CQC and NICE has added a new session to the Antimicrobial Resistance and Infections elearning programme.

[Antimicrobial Prescribing for Urinary Tract Infections](#) (UTIs) provides a quick overview on the key points for clinicians to consider when prescribing antibiotics for UTIs, as outlined in the NICE guidance on managing common infections.

The bite-sized session also covers:

- why the management of specific infections matter
- what you need to know as a clinician
- what you can do in your clinical practice
- where can you find more information

This bite-sized session is accompanied by an assessment and learners have the flexibility of assessing their knowledge before and/or after engaging with the session.

Medicines Availability Information

Gentisone HC® Ear Drops are out of stock until w/c 25th October 2021. Alternative combination topical ear products containing an aminoglycoside with a steroid remain available.

Clonidine (Catapres)

100 mcg tablets are out of stock until w/c 4 October 2021. Clonidine 25mcg

tablets and clonidine 50 mcg/5ml oral solution remain available and can support an uplift in demand.

Varenicline (Champix) 0.5mg and 1mg tablets.

Pfizer stopped the distribution of all products in the range in early June 2021 and are unable to confirm a resupply date. This is due

to investigations relating to the presence of nitrosamine impurities above Pfizer's acceptable level of daily intake in several batches. Batches currently in the market are not subject to a recall, and patients can continue to take their medicine if supplies are available.



Full details of all national shortages can be found on the SPS website [here](#). Registration is required

What's new from RDTC

Publications

- Growth Contrast tool (April 2020—March 2021)
- Evaluation Report :Solriamfetol for obstructive sleep apnoea
- Evaluation Report - Solriamfetol for narcolepsy
- Monthly Horizon Scanning
 - ◇ June 2021

Topics in development

- New Drug Evaluation
 - ⇒ estradiol spray (Lenzetto®) for menopausal symptoms
 - ⇒ Tirbanibulin for actinic keratosis
 - ⇒ Ryeqo for uterine fibroids

Prescribing Analysis reports

The following reports are now available on the RDTC website:

- ◆ Top 50 Expenditure (2020-21 Q1,Q2 ,Q3 & Q4)
- ◆ Antibacterial Drugs (2020-21 Q1,Q2 ,Q3 & Q4)
- ◆ Drugs in Diabetes (2020-21 Q1,Q2 ,Q3 & Q4)
- ◆ Dementia (2020-21 Q1,Q2 ,Q3 & Q4)
- ◆ Respiratory (2020-21 Q1,Q2 ,Q3 & Q4)
- ◆ Cardiovascular (2020-21 Q1,Q2 ,Q3 & Q4)
- ◆ April 2021 Monthly Financial Headlines
- ◆ Price concession bulletin (May & June 2021)

New and updated NICE advice

Nice Guidance—new

[NG 197](#): Shared decision making

[NG198](#) : Acne vulgaris: management

[NG199](#) : Clostridioides difficile infection: antimicrobial prescribing

Nice Guidance—updated

[NG191](#) : COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19

[NG164](#) : COVID-19 rapid guideline: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation

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

Clinical Guidelines—updated

[CG170](#) : Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: support and management

[CG142](#) : Autism spectrum disorder in adults: diagnosis and management

[CG138](#) : Patient experience in adult NHS services: improving the experience of care for people using adult NHS services

UK product launches

Tramadol 10mg/ml oral solution

(Morningside Healthcare Ltd). First licensed oral solution for the treatment of moderate to severe pain.

Methocarbamol 1500 mg film-coated tablets

for the symptomatic treatment of painful muscular tension, especially in the lower back (lumbago) in adults. No other products marketed at this strength; several 750 mg tablets are available.

Fosfomycin 3g granules for oral solution (Alexi®)

for the treatment of acute, uncomplicated cystitis in women and female adolescents and perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis for transrectal prostate biopsy in adult men.

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

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