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New RDTC Website

As we reported in the last newsletter, the RDTC has a new-look website, which can still be found at www.rdtc.nhs.uk.

[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)

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.

"Prescribing Bulletins" are an RDTC stakeholder publication produced to support information provision and informed decision making in response to time-relevant identified stakeholder needs at either Region, ICS, or CCG level (as appropriate). The topics are variable and recently have included areas such as: Commissioning implications due to new NICE guidance (AF), Drug availability and Impact of price changes (Priadel) and Covid-19 impact on prescribing costs.

Three new **ICS level bulletins** will be published in Sept 21, providing top-level data on antimicrobial prescribing, the carbon impact of Inhalers, and overprescribing as support for ongoing work on antimicrobial stewardship, sustainability, and polypharmacy, respectively. The ICS reports are still evolving, as specific monitoring needs are further refined and datasets adapted. Going forwards, they will be updated quarterly.

Prescribing Bulletins are available through the [RDTC website](#).

What's new from RDTC Publications

- Monthly Horizon Scanning: July & August 2021
- Bulletins: NICE AF guidelines. Financial and commissioning impact

Prescribing Analysis reports

- ◆ Top 50 Expenditure (2021-22 Q1)
- ◆ Monthly Financial Headlines (June 2021)
- ◆ Price concession bulletin (August 2021)
- ◆ Switch Saving Calculators (August 2021)
- ◆ Cost Comparison Charts (July 2021)
- ◆ Drug Tariff Monitor (July 2021)
- ◆ Items which should not be prescribed (20/21 Q4)

The following therapeutic reports are now available with Q4 2020/21 data:

- ◆ Antibacterial Drugs
- ◆ Antidepressant Drugs
- ◆ Drugs in Diabetes
- ◆ Respiratory
- ◆ Cardiovascular
- ◆ Drugs affecting Bone Metabolism
- ◆ Drugs for Genito-urinary disorders
- ◆ Gastro-intestinal drugs
- ◆ Oral Nutrition
- ◆ Wound Management & Other Dressings
- ◆ Drugs In Dementia

Topics in development

- New Drug Evaluation : estradiol spray
- Medicines in Practice: oro-dispersible budesonide for maintenance of eosinophilic oesophagitis



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Sennosides new labelling requirements

Due to regulatory changes, products containing sennosides as the active substance can no longer be labelled as senna. Pharmacists in all care settings should ensure that prescribing and dispensing systems reflect the new approved generic name.

The regulatory change is necessary because a product labelled senna must meet the BP monograph definition, which means it is formed of the powdered fruit of Senna, Alexandrian or Tinnevelly. Most products available instead contain an extracted, purified and isolated component (sennosides) which has then been formed into the calcium salt. Further information can be found [here](#).

Changes to the NHS community pharmacy contract in 2021/22—information for primary care teams

A [PSNC](#) briefing outlines the changes to the community pharmacy contract for 2021/22 and its impact on general practice in the following areas:

- New Medicine Service
- Hypertension case-finding service
- Pharmacy Quality Scheme including : Anticoagulation audit, Respiratory, Inhaler technique checks, Return of unwanted and unused inhalers, Flu vaccination, Antibiotic review, Encouraging uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations, Weight management.

NEW: National guidance on blood testing following shortages

As of 17th September, testing activity in primary and community care, in line with the best practice guidance, can resume, stocks permitting. It is important to avoid an immediate surge in demand for tubes beyond June and July 2021 baseline levels, so as not to potentially create further constraint in the supply chain. Any backlog of tests should be worked through over a period of at least eight weeks, prioritising as required, to spread the demand for tubes.

[Best practice guidance](#) has been developed by NHSE for primary care and secondary care to support this.

Inclisiran in primary care

On 1st September 2021, NICE published a positive final appraisal document (FAD) for Inclisiran as an option to treat primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia. The commercial deal agreed with NHS England meant that this treatment is now a clinically and cost effective treatment option for a broader patient population.

To support timely access to this treatment, the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) and Commercial Medicines Directorate at NHSE have put together a [Medicines Optimisation Pack](#), which contains information about inclisiran including the efficacy and safety data and an explanation of the nationally agreed reimbursement and funding structure.

New SPS publications

Recently added resources on the SPS website:

- [Switching between oral morphine and other oral opioids in adult palliative or cancer care patients](#)
- [Tool to calculate estimated dose equivalences of oral morphine to other oral opioids](#)
- [An example oral opioid switch from morphine to oxycodone](#)
- [Summary of biopharmaceutical stability data reviewed and available extended shelf-life data](#)
- [Written Instruction for the administration of seasonal 'flu vaccination](#)
- [Metformin for hirsutism and acne in polycystic ovary syndrome \(PCOS\)](#)
- [Chondroitin- adverse effects](#)
- [Safety in Lactation: Non-beta lactam antibiotics and antibacterials](#)
- [Safety in Lactation: Drugs used for allergic conditions](#)
- [What should people do if they miss a dose of their medicine?](#)
- [Safety of dental medicines in acute porphyria](#)

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](#)

Drug monitoring: NEW SPS tool

A new tool to provide summarised recommendations and guidance for drugs requiring monitoring has now been published on the [SPS website](#).

Monitoring new and regular medications ensures treatment continues to be efficacious and safe for patients. This is a 'new look' dynamic, online product for SPS and feedback can be given via the [website](#).



SPS Training : the use of medicines in pregnancy

A new suite of [training](#) has been published on the SPS website addressing the use of medicines during pregnancy including:

- Questions to ask when giving advice on medicines in pregnancy
- Information resources that give advice about medicines in pregnancy
- Assessing risk and informing the risk versus benefit decision for medicines in pregnancy
- The principles of prescribing in pregnancy
- Formulating your advice on the use of medicines in pregnancy

Medicines Availability Information

Clomifene (Clomid) 50mg tablets are out of stock until early December 2021. Generic clomifene 50mg tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand.

Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution is out of stock until early October 2021. Metformin 850mg/5ml and 1000mg/5ml oral solutions remain available but cannot support an increased demand. Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution will be available from early

September but cannot fully support an increase in demand.

Takeda are out of stock of all **Instanyl nasal sprays** until the end of February 2022. To aid switching to another product (titration required) SPS MI have prepared a clinical [memo](#) containing further information.

Pfizer will be out of stock of **voriconazole 200mg vials and Vfend 200mg vials** from 1 October until early November

2021. Bowmed and Fresenius Kabi remain in stock but cannot support the demands of their non-contracted regions during this period.

Updates for **Histamine (H2) antagonists** and **Oral contraceptives** can be found on the SPS website.

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

New and updated NICE advice

Nice Guidance—updated

[NG191](#) : COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19
[NG9](#): Bronchiolitis in children: diagnosis and management

Nice Guidance—new

[NG201](#): Antenatal care
[NG202](#): Obstructive sleep apnoea/hypopnoea syndrome and

obesity hypoventilation syndrome in over 16s

[NG203](#): Chronic kidney disease: assessment and management

[NG204](#): Babies, children and young people's experience of healthcare

UK product launches

Azathioprine 10 mg/ml oral suspension (Jayempi®) indicated for prophylaxis of transplant rejection, and treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases (e.g. severe active rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease), multiple sclerosis, and generalised myasthenia gravis. No other licensed oral liquids currently available.

Duloxetine 90 mg & 120 mg hard gastro-resistant capsules (generic by Neuraxpharm) for treatment of major depressive disorder and generalised anxiety disorder. No other duloxetine products are marketed at this strength.

Ponesimod 2 mg, 3 mg, 4 mg, 5 mg, 6 mg, 7 mg, 8 mg, 9 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg film-coated tablets (Ponvory®). For the treatment of adult patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (RMS) with active disease defined by clinical or imaging features. Similar mechanism to existing drugs (e.g. fingolimod)

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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