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New publication type: Strategic Insights



Strategic Insight reports are designed to support strategic objectives and planning by Integrated Care System (ICS) leaders. Through the analysis of data and communication with key stakeholders across the ICS, interventions are proposed which may be undertaken by the ICS and/or recommended to Integrated Care Boards or associated committees.

To start this new publication series the RDTC has published a new Strategic Insights report on [Electronic Repeat Dispensing: understanding the prescribing population & initial barriers to uptake.](#)

This report highlights the benefits of electronic repeat dispensing (eRD) and examines its use at ICS level in the North of England, in order to support systems in identifying where prescribing processes may be further streamlined.

Further titles in this series to follow include:

- Sustainability: anaesthetic gases and inhalers, and
- Polypharmacy: opioids in urgent and emergency care.

Further information on all upcoming topics can be found on our [work plan.](#)

Additional funding from NHS England regional teams has enabled this publication to be made available to non-stakeholders across the North East and Yorkshire, and North West.

Meet the RDTC Team

Each newsletter we are going to include a few sentences introducing one of the members of the RDTC team and how they support your work.

This edition we focus on Senior Information Scientist - Nancy Kane:

"I'm one of the scientists on the team, with a degree in biomedical science and master's in Health Technology Assessment. I've been with the RDTC for over 12 years doing a variety of work; I undertake evaluations of medicines and devices to support our stakeholders in their decision-making, and help ensure the processes for our publications are really robust and high quality. I was proud to contribute to our New Drug Evaluations being accredited by NICE thanks to the process we use. I also do additional work to support the various groups we attend and support, co-ordinating regional and national working groups and consultations, contribute to our regional MI service, maintain the GMMMG formulary, RAG list, and website, and much more. I really enjoy the variety in this job!"



Recent publications from the RDTC

Strategic Insights

- Electronic Repeat Dispensing

Monthly Formulary Amendments

- June, July

Medicines in Practice:

- budesonide orodispersible tablets (Jorveza®)

Formulary assessment tool:

- melatonin (Adaflex®)

Monthly Horizon Scanning:

- June, July, August

Prescribing Analysis reports

- Monthly Financial Headlines (May 2022)
- Price concession bulletin (June 2022)

Therapeutic reports with Q4 2021/22 data:

- Antibacterial drugs
- Diabetes
- Drugs for Dementia
- Cardiovascular
- Pain Management



@RDTC_Rx

Latest prescribing news from your area

To access formulary decision summaries from your local formulary committee, see:

- [County Durham & Tees Valley APC](#)
- [North Yorkshire and York Area Prescribing Committee](#)
- [Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group](#)
- [North of Tyne, Gateshead and Cumbria APC](#)

New NHSE Shared Care Protocols launched

NHSE have published 18 Shared Care Protocols (SCPs). The SCPs have been developed as a national document that can be adopted and adapted where relevant, using local governance processes for use. In most cases the need for changing the document should be minimal. The complete process of development can be viewed [here](#). The method for regularly reviewing and updating these shared care protocols is still in development, and reviews are not expected imminently.

Changes to the childhood immunisation schedule

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has been notified of the discontinuation of Menitorix[®] (Hib/MenC). This necessitates a change to the routine infant schedule as this vaccine is currently given at 12 months, alongside a dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), MMR and meningococcal group B vaccine (4CMenB). As Menitorix[®] is the only Hib/MenC combination product currently available on the UK market, changes to the routine infant schedule are necessary. It is estimated that, based on current UK stocks of Menitorix[®], the current routine schedule can continue until 2025. The updated schedule can be found [here](#).

NHSE Health Condition decision support tools

These [decision support tools](#) are designed to support shared decision making between people and a clinician. People may find they are useful before, during or between consultations depending on their care pathway. Topics include:

- Dupuytren's Contracture
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Hip Osteoarthritis
- Knee Osteoarthritis
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Cataracts
- Open Angle Glaucoma
- Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Support documents for DOAC switches

In November 2021, NHSE announced new agreements to expand the use of DOACs, with an estimate of 610,000 extra patients being identified and treated. Uptake of DOAC treatment at this level will help to prevent an estimated 21,700 strokes and save the lives of 5,400 patients from a fatal outcome over the next three years. A recent report by the Pharmaceutical Journal entitled "Edoxaban switching scheme: worth the risks?" is available [here](#). Additional resources that may aid local decision making include:

- [The RDTC DOACs for AF comparison tool](#)
This was prepared in response to the NHSE England National Procurement and Commissioning Recommendations published in January 2022. The tool has now been amended to update the guidance on use of DOACs in patients with AF with prosthetic heart valves. Further information was also added about use in extremes of bodyweight.
- [NENC Patient Specific Factors to Consider When Choosing a DOAC in NVAf](#)
This position statement published by NTAG with the NENC cardiac network does not recommend switching except where clinically indicated. However this is a decision that must be taken locally. Individuals are encouraged to discuss this with their local Medicines Optimisation teams.

Changes to the Regional Medicine Information Service

Regional SPS medicines advice services are now working together as one team with a single point of access. Primary care healthcare professionals can contact the service using the new national number **0300 7708564**. The RDTC MI phone number will no longer be in use after 1st September 2022.

Whilst a move to one national email address is imminent the current address for email enquiries remains the same: nuth.rdtc.mi@nhs.net

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

Contact our Medicines Information Service

0191 282 4631
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)

New SPS publications

Recently added resources on the SPS website:

- [How to develop a Patient Group Direction](#)
- [Use of individually named medicines in HM Prisons](#)
- [Using haem arginate \(human hemin\) in acute porphyria attacks](#)
- [Compatibility of nebuliser solution combinations](#)
- [Considerations for monkeypox vaccination](#)
- [When Patient Group Directions are not required](#)
- [Prescribing available HRT products](#)
- [Supportive Medicines for Adults Receiving Marketed CAR-T Cell Therapy](#)
- [Costing Clinical Trials of ATIMPs using the NIHR iCT – Advice for Pharmacy Sites](#)
- [Medication Restrictions for Patients Having CAR-T Cell Therapy V4](#)
- [Temperature and managing the risks to medicines](#)



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

Medicines Availability Information

Fluticasone 125microgram / Salmeterol 25microgram (Combisal®) pressurised metered dose inhaler has an anticipated re-supply date of 26th September 2022. For patients with insufficient supplies, community pharmacists may supply an alternative brand of fluticasone 125microgram with salmeterol 25microgram inhaler pMDI in accordance with the [SSP](#) for eligible patients.

Promethazine (Phenergan®) 25mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules. Anticipated re-supply date 15th August 2022. Where there are insufficient stocks, immediate action and work with appropriate clinical leads and the local Medication Safety Officer (MSO) should be undertaken to review use of promethazine injection and switch to an alternative agent.

Alendronic acid 70mg tablets. Anticipated re-supply date 26th August 2022. If patients have insufficient to last until re-supply date, then alternatives to be considered (if clinically suitable) are Risedronate sodium 35mg tablets (weekly) and ibandronic acid 150mg tablets (monthly). If not suitable then unlicensed supplies of alendronic acid 70mg tablets may be sourced.

New and updated NICE guidance

NICE Guidance—updated

- NG14 [Melanoma: assessment and management](#)
- NG17 [Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management](#)
- NG18 [Diabetes \(type 1 and type 2\) in children and young people: diagnosis and management](#)
- NG25 [Preterm labour and birth](#)
- NG28 [Type 2 diabetes in adults: management](#)

NICE Guidance—new

- NG219 [Gout: diagnosis and management](#)
- NG220 [Multiple sclerosis in adults: management](#)
- NG221 [Reducing sexually transmitted infections](#)
- NG222 [Depression in adults: treatment and management](#)
- NG223 [Social, emotional and mental wellbeing in primary and secondary education](#)
- NG224 [Urinary tract infection in under 16s: diagnosis and management](#)

UK product launches

Zubsolv® (naloxone/buprenorphine) various strength sublingual tablets, indicated as substitution treatment for opioid drug dependence, within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment. The intention of the naloxone component is to deter intravenous misuse. For use in adults and adolescents over 15 years of age who have agreed to be treated for addiction.

Okedi® (risperidone) 75mg, 100 mg powder for prolonged-release suspension in pre-filled syringe. Indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults for whom tolerability and effectiveness has been established with oral risperidone. No other products available at these strengths, or in pre-filled syringes.

Wegovy® (semaglutide) solution for injection in pre-filled FlexTouch pen. Indicated as an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity for weight loss and weight maintenance, in adults with an initial BMI of ≥ 30 kg/m² (obesity), or ≥ 27 kg/m² to < 30 kg/m² (overweight) in the presence of at least one weight-related comorbidity. A [NICE TA](#) is pending for this product

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 [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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