

IN THIS ISSUE

RDTC Focus: Our resources to help you budget	1
Recent publications from the RDTC	1
Latest prescribing news from your area	2
Meet the RDTC Team	2
Cost Comparison Charts: additional information	2
Voluntary recall of certain FreeStyle Libre® 2 sensors	3
PPH: Polypharmacy and Overprescribing of Opioids	3
E-learning programme on internet safety, suicide and self-harm	3
Prescribing Bulletin: Metformin immediate release 1g tablets	3
SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest	4
Serious shortage protocols (SSPs)	4
Medicines Availability Information	4
New and updated NICE guidance	4
UK product launches	4

RDTC Focus: Our resources to help you budget

Money: where you are spending it and how we can help you make the most of it.

In all our publications we include consideration of financial impact, whether that be an adoption of a medicine or a guideline, or change in practice. With this in mind, we would draw your attention to some recent RDTC publications specifically designed to make the most of your budget, whether locally or at ICS/ICB level:

- ⇒ [Cost Comparison charts](#) (updated January 2023), now include new branded generics and information on inhaler sustainability (carbon footprints, refill availability, dose counters, MART therapy). See p2 for further details.
- ⇒ A [Prescribing Bulletin](#) highlighting the rapid increase in the price of metformin 1g instant release tablets and how significant savings can be achieved, see p3
- ⇒ The [Monthly Financial Headlines](#) monitors budget performance based on total prescribing for the whole BNF at sub-ICB and PCN level for the financial year to date, with particular focus on cost and item growth compared to the same period from the previous financial year.
- ⇒ The [Annual Horizon Scanning](#) (available upon request) supports regional MO leads working together with ICB financial teams to plan for the introduction of new medicines in the coming financial year by identifying those anticipated to have a high financial impact

We are also exploring some additions to publications such as in the case of the [Price Concessionary Bulletin](#). This currently estimates the cost impact of drug price changes, through both the Price Concessions list and also monthly drug tariff cost variations at ICB, SICBL and PCN level. As a result of an increase in the number of drugs being assigned price concessionary status this financial year to date (April 2022 to January 2023), culminating in a record number of 198 in December, the following cost impact to ICBs has been estimated:

Greater Manchester	£14,771,307
Humber and North Yorkshire	£7,687,661
North East and North Cumbria	£16,734,388
South Yorkshire	£7,203,920
West Yorkshire	£11,648,034

Watch out for future editions of the bulletin, which will incorporate this and more.

Recent publications from the RDTC

Prescribing for Population Health:

- Polypharmacy & overprescribing — Opioids

Monthly Formulary Amendments:

- December, January

Formulary Assessment tool:

- Morphine sulfate (Actimorph®)

Monthly Horizon Scanning:

- January, February

Prescribing Bulletin:

- Budget impact of metformin 1g IR tablet

Prescribing Analysis Reports:

- Monthly Financial Headlines (December 2022)
- Cost Comparison Charts (Jan 2023)
- Price concession bulletin (January 2023)
- Therapeutic reports
 - Dementia (Q1&2 2022)
 - Antibacterial (Q1&2 2022)
 - Cardiovascular (Q1&2 2022)
 - Respiratory (Q1&2 2022)
 - Diabetes (Q1&2 2022)
 - Pain (Q1&2 2022)



@RDTC_Rx

Latest prescribing news from your area

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

- [North Yorkshire and York Area Prescribing Committee](#)
- [Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group](#)
- [Humber APC](#)
- [NENC Medicines Committee](#)

Meet the RDTC Team

In each newsletter we are going to include a few sentences to introduce one of the members of the RDTC team and how they support your work. This edition focuses on Principal Pharmacist, Paula Russell.

Paula has been a Principal Pharmacist since February 2003 at the RDTC, where she has worked supporting the MI, UK Teratology Information Service (UKTIS) and National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) enquiry answering services. Paula has also worked on secondment to NHS England as national Pharmacy Lead for NHS111 and also as Pharmacy lead for the Integrating Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation into the North Cumbria and North East ICS Pilot programme.



Paula is particularly interested in medicines in pregnancy and as such she contributed to chapter 48 'Pregnancy and Lactation' for Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics textbook (5th and 6th ed) and presented on Drugs in Pregnancy at the RCGP Conference 2018 and wrote much of the SPS content on safety in pregnancy. She was Pharmacy Advisor to the North East Ambulance Service for 8 years and continues to use her experience in pre-hospital care as volunteer National Pharmaceutical Advisor to the British Red Cross. She worked in community pharmacy before moving to hospital pharmacy both here and in Ireland. Prior to studying pharmacy Paula taught maths and chemistry in Ireland.

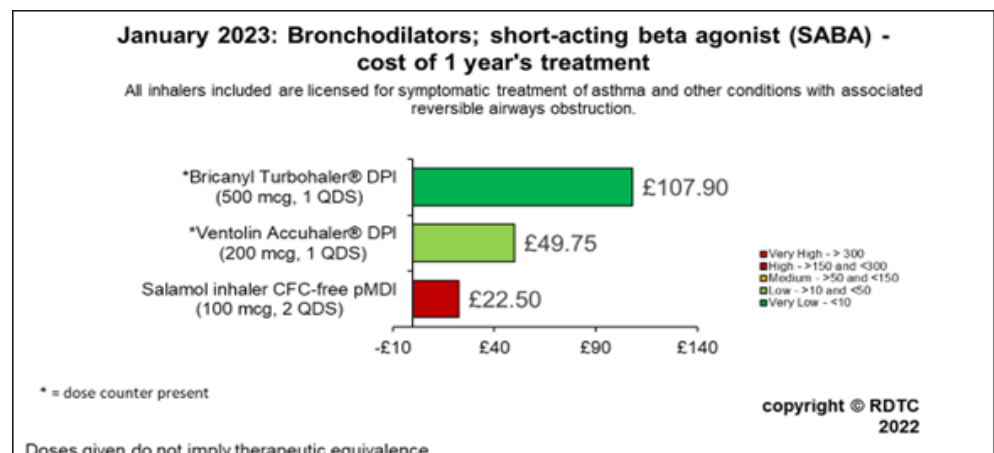
Paula was awarded Fellowship of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in November 2022 in recognition of her contribution to the profession.

Cost Comparison Charts: additional information

The [Cost Comparison Charts](#) for January 2023 are now available via the RDTC website. The inhaler charts now feature some valuable additional information including:

- * carbon footprints (based on annual KgCO²e)
- * refillable inhalers
- * devices with a dose counter
- * inhalers licenced for Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART)

Below is a sample of the Bronchodilators: short-acting beta agonist (SABA) chart:



This additional data has been added to the following charts:

- 3.1 ♦Bronchodilators: short-acting beta agonist (SABA) ♦Asthma; non-SABA bronchodilators ♦Bronchodilators for COPD (non-SABA)
- 3.2 ♦Corticosteroids and combinations inhalers for asthma: High dose ICS
- ♦Corticosteroids and combinations inhalers for asthma: Medium dose ICS
- ♦Corticosteroids and combinations inhalers for asthma: Low dose ICS
- ♦Corticosteroids and combinations inhalers for COPD

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)

Voluntary recall of certain FreeStyle Libre® 2 sensors

Abbott has recently identified that certain FreeStyle Libre® 2 sensors from batch KTP005061 may provide erroneously high glucose readings. This could lead to incorrect treatment decisions, such as a patient taking insulin when not required.

Patients should be advised to visit www.FreeStyleConfirm.com to check whether or not the sensor they are using/ or have unused is one of the affected. Any affected sensors should not be used and be returned (Abbott will supply a mailing kit to enable return any affected sensors).

PPH: Polypharmacy and Overprescribing of Opioids



Prescribing for Population Health (PPH) is an ongoing series that aims to support ICS's to improve the health of the populations they serve. PPH's use prescribing data, biomedical literature and other data sources to provide new insights.

In recent years, there has been increasing concern regarding the overprescribing of opioids and associated harms. The

RDTC has produced a series of publications as part of the Polypharmacy and Overprescribing theme reviewing opioid prescribing:

- [Opioid patient populations](#)
- [Opioid patient demographics](#)
- [Opioid population health management](#)

Each publication includes considerations and interventions for medicines optimisation teams and health systems. To avoid duplication across this series of overprescribing and polypharmacy opioid publications, the suggested actions have only been listed in the most relevant theme but may apply across all. We recommend reading all parts of the series sequentially to ensure the breadth of potential actions are known.

E-learning programme on internet safety, suicide and self-harm

Health Education England and the Samaritans have produced a 30-minute [e-learning course](#) for health and care practitioners. It outlines how to talk about internet use, suicide and self-harm with the people they support.

The course covers:

- why it's important to ask people about their internet use around suicide and self-harm.
- what people do online and the potential risks and benefits of exploring suicide and self-harm online.
- how to ask the people you support about their internet use.
- what advice you can give to help people stay safe and have positive experiences online.

Prescribing Bulletin: Metformin immediate release 1g tablets

The price of metformin 1g immediate release (IR) tablets has rapidly increased (+568% over the last year). This [bulletin](#) aims to raise awareness of the difference in price of metformin 1g IR tablets compared with metformin 500mg IR tablets.

	Pack Size	DT Price
Metformin 500mg tablets	28	£0.79
Metformin 1g tablets	28	£60.85

The bulletin illustrates the potential budget impact to primary care of prescribing metformin 1g IR tablets across the ICSs in the North East & Yorkshire region and Greater Manchester and the potential savings if metformin 500mg IR tablets were utilised in their place.

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)

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

A slide deck summarising SPS outputs and resources can be found [here](#).



Serious shortage protocols (SSPs)

The eight [Serious Shortage Protocols \(SSPs\)](#) for phenoxymethylpenicillin products have been extended. The revised date is now 28 February 2023.

Amendments have been made to the five Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for phenoxymethylpenicillin products which enables therapeutic substitution (SSP043, SSP044, SSP045, SSP046 and SSP047). Azithromycin and Clarithromycin are NO longer included within the priority list of antibiotic alternatives for less than 10 days treatment.

An SSP now applies for the substitution of [paracetamol 120mg suppositories](#) with paracetamol 125mg suppositories until the 5th May 2023.

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

Primary care MI enquiries: 0300 7708564 or email

Medicines Availability Information

[Pilocarpine 4% eye drops](#) are currently unavailable, with a resupply date of 31st March 2023. Primary care prescribers should review patients on pilocarpine 4% eye drops for open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension and establish if they have sufficient supplies until the resupply date. Pilocarpine 1% and 2% eye drops are still available.

[Ofloxacin 200mg tablets](#) supplies are limited at present and full resupply is due on the 14th April 2023. Clinicians involved in the prescribing of ofloxacin 200 mg should refer to local or national antimicrobial guidelines and consider prescribing an alternative fluoroquinolone taking into consideration the type of infection being treated, patient's cultures and

sensitivities, if available, and contraindications.

[Sondate XL \(quetiapine\) 50mg tablets](#) are unavailable until 14th April 2023. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, prescribers should consider prescribing an alternative brand of quetiapine modified-release 50mg tablets.

New and updated NICE guidance

NICE Guidance—updated

[CG103: Delirium: prevention, diagnosis and management in hospital and long-term care](#)

[CG124: Hip fracture: management](#)

[CG181: Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification](#)

[NG209: Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence](#)

[NG213: Disabled children and young people up to 25 with severe complex needs: integrated service delivery and organisation across health, social care and education](#)

NICE Guidance—new

[NG231: Barrett's oesophagus and stage 1 oesophageal adenocarcinoma: monitoring and management](#)

NICE Guidance — reinstated

[NG84: Sore throat \(acute\): antimicrobial prescribing](#)

NICE has reinstated the prescribing guidance for children and young people, because the December 2022 NHSE interim guidance on group A streptococcus that replaced it has been withdrawn.

UK product launches

Levomepromazine 5 mg/ml oral solution (Levorol[®]) available as a licensed product (previously only available as a “special”). Licensed for the suppression of psychomotor restlessness and agitation within the context of psychotic disorders, for acute agitation states in manic episodes and as an adjunct therapy for the treatment of severe and/or chronic pain.

Clindamycin 100 mg pessaries for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis (formerly referred to as *Haemophilus* vaginitis, *Gardnerella* vaginitis, nonspecific vaginitis, *Corynebacterium* vaginitis, or anaerobic vaginosis).

Eptinezumab 100 mg concentrate for solution for infusion (Vyep[™]) indicated for the prophylaxis of migraine in adults who have at least 4 migraine days per month. [Draft NICE guidance](#) supports conditional use of eptinezumab, which is the fourth monoclonal antibody launched for migraine prophylaxis.

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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