

## IN THIS ISSUE

RDTC Focus: Semaglutide for managing obesity	1
Recent publications from the RDTC	1
Latest prescribing news from your area	2
Meet the RDTC Team	2
Great North Pharmacy Research Collaborative Conference 2023	2
Training: Working with people and communities to improve health outcomes	2
Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Gene Testing Workshops	2
SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest	3
Serious shortage protocols (SSPs)	3
Medicines Availability Information	3
New and updated NICE guidance	3
UK product launches	3

## RDTC Focus: Semaglutide for managing obesity

In March 2023 NICE published [TA875](#): Technology Appraisal guidance for semaglutide (Wegovy®) for managing overweight and obesity.

The guidance recommends semaglutide as an option for weight management when prescribed by a specialist service alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity in adults if they meet the criteria specified:

- it is used for a maximum of 2 years, and within a specialist weight management service providing multidisciplinary management of overweight or obesity (including but not limited to tiers 3 and 4), and
- they have at least 1 weight-related comorbidity and a body mass index (BMI) of at least 35.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, or a BMI of 30.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup> to 34.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and meet the criteria for referral to specialist weight management services in NICE's guideline on obesity: identification, assessment and management.

[This RDTC briefing](#) aims to provide advice to prescribers on how the treatment can be accessed and which patient groups are eligible to receive Wegovy®. The document explains some of the limitations of the treatment and the evidence base, as described by NICE and may help to manage patient expectations.

The Wegovy® product is not currently available in the UK and was expected to launch in spring 2023. The similar products Ozempic® and Rybelsus® are only licensed for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, use different doses and cannot be used for weight management. Shortages of Wegovy® in the USA, due to high rates of prescribing, may have delayed the product launch in the UK until production can be increased to meet demand. The list price of Wegovy® has not yet been made publicly available at the time of writing as it is considered confidential by the manufacturer.

Regarding patients prescribed semaglutide for diabetes, clinicians should ensure that Ozempic® is being used for licensed indications only and not initiate new patients on Ozempic® until full supplies become available in January 2024.

## Recent publications from the RDTC

### Prescribing for Population Health:

- Problematic Polypharmacy Prescribing Cascades

### Medicines in Practice:

- Considerations for Sustainable Inhaler Prescribing
- Transfer of Prescribing from Private Providers to NHS GP

### Prescribing Bulletin:

- Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity

### Formulary Assessment tool:

- Tacalcitol (Curatoderm®)

### Monthly Horizon Scanning:

- March, April

### Monthly Formulary Amendments:

- February, March

### Prescribing Analysis Reports:

- Monthly Financial Headlines (January 2023)
- Drug Tariff Monitor (January 2023)
- Growth Contrast Tool (Apr—Dec 2022)
- Price concession bulletin (March 2023)
- Top 50 BNF Sections and Drugs Report (Apr—Dec 2022)
- Therapeutic reports
  - Dementia (Q1,2&3 2022)
  - Diabetes (Q1,2&3 2022)
  - Antibacterial (Q1,2&3 2022)
  - Cardiovascular (Q1,2&3 2022)
  - Respiratory (Q1,2&3 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 Information Assistant – James Boot

I have worked at the RDTC since 2011 within the data team. My work is mainly focussed on the data side of our reports. I'm regularly involved in the production of the Monthly Financial Headlines, Top 50 BNF sections and drugs and Cost Comparison Charts in addition to other reports.



My role also includes sourcing data for some of our publications, supporting the work of other data team members, information scientists and pharmacists.

Prior to working at the RDTC I have spent time working in other data roles including the NHS Business Services Authority (processing prescriptions) and Northumbria Police (Researcher/Analyst).

Having previously studied towards an environmental science degree I do enjoy spending my free time exploring the great outdoors!

### Diary Entry: Great North Pharmacy Research Collaborative Conference 2023

The RDTC prescribing support team will be in attendance at the GNPRC on July 14th 2023 at the Hilton Hotel Newcastle Gateshead, where the theme this year is "Pharmacy and Health Inequalities - Mind the Medicines Gap". The RDTC will have a stand—please come and say hello! To register for your free NHS place to the conference, click [here](#).

In collaboration with the NHSE, the RDTC will be running a session on "*How data can help to close the medicines gap*". There will also be five posters presented from the RDTC which centre on the use of opioids including: how opioids are used in populations by demographic, how opioids are accessed via ED/Urgent care, the overprescribing of opioids and sustainability considerations.

### Training: Working with people and communities to improve health outcomes

NHS England has launched a new [short course on working with people and communities](#), which is open to any one working directly with people in the NHS and social care - including clinicians, receptionists and clinical students.

The course lasts for two weeks and looks at why it's important to work with people and communities, how teams can successfully involve marginalised communities, and some of the challenges that health and care professionals can face and how they can be overcome. It explores how to create better health outcomes through working with people and supports attendees to think about what it means to be really heard – and what difference that can make.

### Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Gene Testing Workshops

Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH) is an inherited condition that can cause extremely high cholesterol levels, even in people who have a healthy lifestyle, because it affects the way that cholesterol is broken down in the body. The North East and Yorkshire Genomic Medicine Service are currently running a project that includes systematic medical record searching and diagnostic testing to identify patients with FH. Further details can be found [here](#).

Workshops have been developed in collaboration with the University of Northumbria, designed to support healthcare professionals (primary and secondary care) in developing their knowledge and skills in the care and management of patients and families with FH. To find out more and to register for the upcoming workshops click [here](#).

#### 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](mailto: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)

Drug involved	Start and End Date of SSP
<a href="#">Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension</a>	6 Apr 2023 to 26 May 2023
<a href="#">Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension</a>	6 Apr 2023 to 26 May 2023
<a href="#">Progynova® TS 100 microgram patches</a>	28 Mar 2023 to 9 Jun 2023
<a href="#">Paracetamol suppositories 240mg</a>	17 Mar 2023 to 5 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 [asksps.nhs@sps.direct](mailto:asksps.nhs@sps.direct)

## Medicines Availability Information

**Selegiline (Eldepryl 5mg and 10mg) tablets** are currently unavailable until June 2023. Practices in primary care should proactively identify any patients on selegiline, contact them to establish how much supply they have left, and make arrangements to prescribe an alternative agent if patient has insufficient supply. This should be done as soon as possible so that those patients who have run out or

are low in supply minimise/avoid the break in treatment and risk of disease deterioration. Rasagiline 1mg tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand if clinically appropriate.

**Fendrix (hepatitis B) vaccine** is unavailable until 28th April, however prescribers should consider prescribing HBVAXPRO 40mcg suspension for injection until Fendrix

is available. HBVAXPRO 40mcg vaccine is available and able to fully uplift the gap in the market.

**Vanquorel (ciclosporin) 25mg capsules** have an anticipated re-supply date of 19 May 2023. GP prescribers should seek advice from the appropriate specialist team on switching to an available brand if necessary and ensure patients are counselled fully.

## New and updated NICE guidance

### NICE Guidance—updated

[NG101: Early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management](#)

[NG122: Lung cancer: diagnosis and management \(update\)](#)

[NG133: Hypertension in pregnancy: diagnosis and management](#)

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

[CG104: Metastatic malignant disease of unknown primary origin in adults: diagnosis and management](#)

There was no new guidance published in March or April

## UK product launches

**Teriflunomide** (Aubagio® , Sanofi Genzyme) 7 mg film-coated tablets, indicated for the treatment of adult patients and paediatric patients aged 10 years and older with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (MS). This is a new strength to enable paediatric patients with body weight ≤40 kg to receive 7 mg once daily.

**Lumacaftor, Ivacaftor** (Orkambi®▼ , Vertex Pharmaceuticals Limited) 75 mg/94 mg granules in sachet. Indicated for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) in patients aged 1 year and older who are homozygous for the F508del mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. This is a new strength of the granules, which are already available in 150 mg/88 mg and 200 mg/125 mg sachets.

**Belumosudil mesilate** (Rezurock®▼ , Sanofi) 200 mg film-coated tablets indicated for the treatment of patients aged 12 years and older with chronic graft-versus-host disease (chronic GVHD) who have received at least two prior lines of systemic therapy. Belumosudil mesilate is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor which modulates signalling in immune cell function and fibrotic pathways.

### Looking for something?

Our documents, reports, and other useful publications are all published on our website [www.rdtc.nhs.uk](http://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

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY THE NHS FOR THE NHS:  
NOT TO BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES