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RDTC Focus: Medicine Value bulletins

Over the last couple of months, the RDTC has been focussing its efforts to identify areas of primary care prescribing where small changes could improve prescribing quality while reducing financial pressures. We are calling these our “Medicine Value Bulletins”.

The bulletins consider the potential budget impact to primary care prescribing budgets based on current prescribing across the ICSs in the North East & Yorkshire region and Greater Manchester. All actions proposed in these bulletins are based on best clinical practice, with consideration to local and national guidance.

A group within the RDTC have been tasked with ensuring these bulletins are wholly relevant to primary care in the current climate. The RDTC will monitor the spending on these specific medicines to assess changes in prescribing and communicate this to the relevant ICS.

In the last 4 months we have produced the following Medicine Value bulletins:

- [Budget impact of metformin 1g immediate release tablet prescribing](#)
- [Budget impact of methylphenidate modified release tablet choice](#)
- [Budget impact of promethazine prescribing](#)
- [Budget impact of acetylcysteine vs carbocisteine](#)
- [Budget impact of emollient bath and shower preparations](#)
- [Budget impact of paracetamol 250mg/5ml oral suspension](#)

We would suggest that ICS Medicines Optimisation teams consider the published bulletins and determine whether the proposed actions are in line with the current workplan within their area. The bulletins are pragmatic in their projected savings so take into account prescribing which may be “exceptions to the rule”.

Recent publications from the RDTC

Comparison Document:

- [DOACs for Atrial Fibrillation \(updated\)](#)

Monthly Formulary Amendments:

- [July](#), [August](#)

Monthly Horizon Scanning:

- [August](#), [September](#)

Prescribing Bulletin

- [Environmental impact of inhaler disposal](#)

Medicines Value bulletin

- [Budget impact of acetylcysteine vs carbocisteine](#)
- [Budget impact of promethazine prescribing](#)
- [Budget impact of paracetamol 250mg/5ml oral suspension](#)
- [Budget impact of emollient bath and shower preparations](#)

Prescribing Analysis Reports:

- [Monthly Financial Headlines \(June 2023\)](#)
- [Drug Tariff Monitor \(July 2023\)](#)
- [Cost Comparison Chart \(July 2023\)](#)
- [Price concession bulletin \(August 2023\)](#)
- [Top 50 BNF Sections and Drugs Report \(Apr-June 2023\)](#)

Therapeutic reports

- [Dementia](#) (Q1,2,3 & 4 2022/23)
- [Diabetes](#) (Q1,2,3 & 4 2022/23)
- [Antibacterial](#) (Q1,2,3 & 4 2022/23)
- [Cardiovascular](#) (Q1,2,3 & 4 2022/23)
- [Respiratory](#) (Q1,2,3 & 4 2022/23)
- [Pain](#) (Q1,2,3 & 4 2022/23)



@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 Gavin Mankin, Principal Pharmacist – Medicines Management

I have worked at the RDTc since July 2014 within the prescribing support team.

My role is supporting various prescribing/formulary committees across the North of England as their professional secretary. Currently I support the North Yorkshire & York APC and NTAG (Northern Treatment Advisory Group). I have nearly twenty years experience of supporting prescribing/formulary committees, including managing/assessing formulary applications, and supporting the development of clinical/shared care guidelines.

Prior to working at the RDTc I have fifteen years experience of working in hospital pharmacy including clinical trials, medicines information, anticoagulant clinics, and aseptics.

At the RDTc I also support the writing of some of our publications, lead on the review/development of our cost comparison charts, and support the information officer role within the Neonatal & Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG).



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)

Sustainability: Environmental impact of inhaler disposal

The [NHS Long-Term Plan](#) sets out a commitment to reduce NHS carbon emissions by 51% by 2025, and ultimately to become the world's first Net-Zero health service. Good-quality data comparing the environmental impact of different types of inhalers is essential if patients and prescribers are to make informed decisions about their choice of inhalers in relation to their potential contribution to climate change.

Promoting the appropriate inhaler disposal (returning used and expired inhalers to pharmacy for disposal) is also a marker of success in the NHSE [National medicines optimisation opportunities 2023/24](#).

The purpose of this [RDTc bulletin](#) is to review the current evidence on the relative contribution of the end-of-life disposal stage to the overall environmental impact of inhalers, and to highlight interventions which could reduce the environmental impact at end of use.

Shortage of ADHD medications

A [national patient safety alert](#) has been issued for methylphenidate prolonged-release capsules and tablets, lisdexamfetamine capsules, and guanfacine prolonged-release tablets. The supply disruption of these products is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and an increased global demand. The supply disruptions are expected to resolve at various dates between October and December 2023.

Recommended actions for prescribers include:

- not initiating new patients on products affected by this shortage until the supply issues resolve
- Identifying all patients currently prescribed these products, and making early contact with patients to establish how much supply they have remaining.

The [RDTc Medicine Value Bulletin](#) relating to methylphenidate XL tablets may be utilised to identify pharmacologically similar alternatives where the usually prescribed product is not currently available. This may also provide opportunities to establish whether the best value products are being employed.



Serious shortage protocols (SSPs)

Drug involved	Start and End Date of SSP
Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml, 250mg/5 ml oral suspension	Start: 06/04/2023 Expiry: 17/11/2023
Estradot® (Estradiol (as hemihydrate)) 100 microgram patch	Start: 21/08/2023 Expiry: 13/10/2023
Jext® 300micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1000) solution for injection auto-injector pen	Start: 21/08/2023 Expiry: 20/10/2023

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

Primary care MI enquiries:
0300 7708564 or email
asksp.nhs@sps.direct

Medicines Availability Information

Voractiv (rifampicin 150 mg, isoniazid 75 mg, pyrazinamide 400 mg, ethambutol 275mg) tablets are currently unavailable with a anticipated re-supply date of 27th October 2023. Rifater tablets (rifampicin 120mg/pyrazinamide 300mg/isoniazid 50mg) in combination with ethambutol tablets remain available and can support a full uplift in demand for patients requiring treatment with Voracti.

Minims **Oxybuprocaine** hydrochloride 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose and Minims **Proxymetacaine** 0.5% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose have an anticipated re-supply date of 6th October 2023. Where stock is unavailable, unlicensed supplies of proxymetacaine 0.5% eye drops 10ml (contains preservative: benzalkonium chloride) may be sourced, lead times vary.

Phenytoin sodium 100mg capsules (**Accord**) are anticipated to be available at the end of December 2023. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, prescribers should consider prescribing phenytoin sodium 100mg capsules (Flynn Pharma), ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the appropriate dose. If not appropriate, seek advice from specialists regards management

For all new and updated NICE guidance, including safety alerts, please see our regular [Monthly Formulary Amendments document](#)

RDTC Diary: Clinical Pharmacy Congress (CPC) North 3-4th November

A delegation of the RDTC team will be attending the CPC in Manchester this coming November. Held over 2 days, this conference will be an opportunity to consider a wide variety of topics, including:

- Independent prescribing
- Pharmacy team integration into specialist clinics

- Sustainability within pharmacy
 - Medication review and deprescribing
- If you are a registered pharmacy or other health professional working in the NHS, PCN, Care Homes, General Practice, ICS, locality or CSU, you are eligible to waive the full cost. Registration can be found [here](#).

UK product launches

Ruxolitinib 15 mg/g cream (Opzelura®) indicated for the treatment of non-segmental vitiligo with facial involvement in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age. Ruxolitinib has previously been marketed as oral tablets (Jakavi®, Novartis) for treatment of myelofibrosis, polycythaemia vera, graft versus host disease.

Mirikizumab 100 mg solution for injection in PFP, 300 mg solution for infusion (Omvoh®▼) is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis who have had an inadequate response with, lost response to, or were intolerant to either conventional therapy or a biologic treatment. Requires IV infusions at weeks 0, 4, & 8 followed by SC injections every 3 weeks.

Risankizumab 360 mg solution for injection in cartridge; 600mg concentrate for solution for infusion (Skyrizi▼®) is indicated for the treatment of patients 16 years and older with moderately to severely active Crohn's disease. The 360mg cartridge uses a disposable, single-use, on-body injector which delivers the dose over 5 minutes. Patient training is required.

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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