NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 119 **Date: 18 July 2025**

Safety guidance

1. **MHRA press release: If you take a GLP-1 medicine and have been hospitalised by acute pancreatitis, the Yellow Card Biobank wants to hear from you** LINK

Yellow Card Biobank, launched by the MHRA and Genomics England, will start investigating whether the risk of acute pancreatitis from GLP-1 injections for weight loss and Type 2 diabetes may be influenced by an individual's genes. Patients hospitalised with acute pancreatitis suspected to be related to GLP-1 medicines are being asked to report it to MHRA's Yellow Card scheme. Healthcare professionals are also being asked to help recruit for the study by reporting Yellow Cards on behalf of patients experiencing acute pancreatitis while taking GLP-1 medicines.

2. **MHRA Report: Review of risk minimisation for disabling and potentially long-lasting/irreversible side effects associated with fluoroquinolone antibiotics** LINK

This report presents the MHRA's review of safety data for fluoroquinolone antibiotics and expert advice on management of risks, as advised by the Commission on Human Medicines. The regulatory action from the review was communicated via a Drug Safety Update published in January 2024 LINK

3. **National Patient Safety Alert: Shortage of bumetanide 1mg tablets** LINK

Bumetanide 1mg tablets are in limited supply until late July 2025. This is a new update following the information that the bumetanide 1mg tablets are out of stock until mid-August 2025. The supply disruption is caused by a combination of manufacturing issues and a resulting increase in demand to other suppliers.
Bumetanide 1mg/5ml oral solution and bumetanide 5mg tablets remain available, however cannot support any increase in demand.

Furosemide 20mg and 40mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
This National Patient Safety Alert provides further background, clinical information and actions for providers.

4. **BNF update: Adrenaline auto-injectors for acute anaphylaxis** LINK

Following a review of dosing of adrenaline/epinephrine auto-injector devices for acute anaphylaxis, the body-weight ranges for Jext® have been aligned with those of EpiPen® so that all children weighing 25kg and over may be given a dose of 300 micrograms.

Prescribers are reminded to check patients' weights as children mature and to adjust the dose accordingly. Patients should carry two in-date adrenaline auto-injectors with them at all times in case they need to administer a second dose of adrenaline before the arrival of the emergency services.

5. **MHRA drug safety update: IXCHIQ Chikungunya vaccine: temporary suspension in people aged 65 years or older** LINK

The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) has temporarily restricted use of the IXCHIQ Chikungunya vaccine in people aged 65 years and over following very rare fatal reactions reported globally. This is a precautionary measure while the MHRA conducts a safety review. The IXCHIQ vaccine was made available in the UK on 18 June 2025.

6. **NPSA alert: Potential contamination of non-sterile alcohol-free skin cleansing wipes with Burkholderia spp: measures to reduce patient risk** LINK

UKHSA is investigating an outbreak of Burkholderia stabilis in the UK, linked to non-sterile alcohol-free skin cleansing wipes, including those used for wound care and included in first aid kits. Alert provides further background, clinical information and actions for providers.

7. **MHRA drug safety update: Abrysvo▼ (Pfizer RSV vaccine) and Arexvy▼ (GSK RSV vaccine): be alert to a small risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination in older adults** LINK

There is a small increase in the risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination with Abrysvo (Pfizer respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine) and Arexvy (GSK RSV vaccine) in adults aged 60 years and older. Healthcare professionals should advise all recipients of Abrysvo and Arexvy that they should be alert to signs and symptoms of Guillain-Barré syndrome and, if they occur, to seek immediate medical attention as it requires urgent treatment in hospital.

National guidance

8. **NHSE: Updated commissioning recommendations following the second national assessment of blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets** LINK

Updated recommendations following the completion by NHS England of a second national assessment of products to ensure ICBs have the information they need to commission care that provides quality products to patients, improves value and reduces unwarranted variation in spend.

9. **UK HSA: Vaccine update: issue 359, June 2025, childhood schedule changes special** LINK

This document covers the recent changes to the childhood vaccination schedule (change to timing of menB and pneumococcal vaccines, and cessation of Hib/Men C vaccine), including rationale, and updated publications including Green Book chapters and vaccine supply information.

Other

10. **Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP)**

- **SSP083 for venlafaxine 37.5mg modified-release tablets issued** LINK

In response to significant ongoing disruption to the supply of venlafaxine 37.5mg modified-release tablets, an SSP has been issued that allows for venlafaxine 37.5mg modified-release capsules to be provided in place of the modified release tablets. SSP expiry date 01 August 2025.

- **SSP079 and SSP082 for Estradot® patches extended** LINK
  DHSC has provided an update on the serious shortage protocols (SSPs) for Estradot® 50micrograms/24hours patches (SSP079) and Estradot® 25micrograms/24hours patches (SSP082). Both SSPs were due to expire on 4 July 2025. However both have been further extended to 10 October 2025.

11. **FSRH CEU statement: Response to new study by Roland et al (2025). 'Oral contraceptives with progestogens desogestrel or levonorgestrel and risk of intracranial meningioma: national case-control study'** LINK

In line with current advice about some progestogens found to have link with meningioma, the CEU would advise that desogestrel is not used in individuals with or a history of meningioma. To date, no link has been found between the use of levonorgestrel and meningioma.

12. **Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacy Group (NPPG): Labelling of dispensed oral medicines for children position statement** LINK

This document includes recommendations on how to label oral medicines (liquids, tablets, capsules), to encourage consistent practice when labelling and dispensing medicines for children and thus reduce risk of harm.

13. **Pharmacy First Translated posters** LINK

Healthcare teams can now download Pharmacy First posters in multiple languages to help promote the service to patients in their communities. These materials can support more inclusive communication and help ensure that more patients from diverse backgrounds understand the benefits of the Pharmacy First service. Translated posters are available in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Central Kurdish
- French
- Gujarati
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese

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Local medicines optimisation teams can be contacted via their generic team mailbox: See LINK
Previous bulletins can be found hosted on the ICS website here: LINK