

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 86

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Safety guidance

1. MHRA: Hyoscine hydrobromide patches (Scopoderm 1.5mg Patch or Scopoderm TTS Patch): risk of anticholinergic side effects, including hyperthermia [LINK](#)

Advice for healthcare professionals includes:

- be alert to the potential for anticholinergic side effects in patients who are prescribed hyoscine hydrobromide patches, particularly if used outside the licence
- usage outside the licence includes: use for indications other than motion or travel sickness, use in children younger than 10 years of age, cutting patches, application of more than one patch at a time, continuous use of patches without a break, and long-term use
- children and elderly patients are more susceptible to anticholinergic toxicity
- serious anticholinergic side effects can include hyperthermia, urinary retention, delirium, hallucinations, seizures, coma, and respiratory paralysis

2. DHSC National Patient Safety Alert - Shortage of GLP-1 receptor agonists [LINK](#)

There are very limited, intermittent supplies of all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs). Supplies are not expected to stabilise to meet full market demand until at least mid-2024. The supply issues have been caused by an increase in demand for these products for licensed and off-label indications. The off-label use of these agents for the management of obesity is strongly discouraged. Existing stock must be conserved for use in patients with diabetes. These shortages have serious clinical implications in the management of patients with type 2 diabetes. See link above for further actions required.

For additional local resources, please see HIOW website link, as highlighted in previous bulletin 85 [LINK](#)

3. EMA statement on ongoing review of GLP-1 receptor agonists [LINK](#)

The European Medicines Agency has announced that it is reviewing reports of suicidal thoughts and self-harm associated with this class of medicines. Authorities are analysing about 150 reports of possible cases of this potential adverse effect. The review should conclude in November 2023.

4. MHRA : Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs): new guidance and resources for safe use [LINK](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has launched new guidance to highlight the latest safety advice on the steps to take during anaphylaxis. This new guidance includes an easy step-by-step guide on what to do in an emergency and provides updated advice on body positioning. Prescribers are reminded to always prescribe 2 AAIs to make sure patients always have a backup.

5. Reminder to check for incorrect “penicillamine allergy” coding on clinical systems

As previously raised by Hampshire Medicines Safety Group, many practices have undertaken searches to verify that patients coded with “penicillamine” sensitivities are correct . One area of Hampshire found a 95% error rate with this coding (across 60 patients with penicillamine sensitivities recorded). This has obvious clinical risks and staff should be reminded to take care with similar sounding names (penicillin and penicillamine) when inputting allergy status.

6. National Patient Safety Alert - Potent synthetic opioids implicated in heroin overdoses and deaths [LINK](#)

In the past 8 weeks, there has been an elevated number of overdoses (with some deaths) in people who use drugs, primarily heroin, in many parts of the country. This National Patient Safety Alert provides further background and clinical information and actions for providers.

7. Treatment of social anxiety disorder : Children and young people [LINK](#)

NICE CG19 states: Do not routinely offer pharmacological interventions to treat social anxiety disorder in children and young people. Offer individual or group CBT focused on social anxiety. Local CAMHS teams have raised concerns of the risks of prescribing propranolol for anxiety in children and young people after a recent death involving overdose of propranolol. National treatment guidelines should be followed. Propranolol is not advised as an interim treatment whilst waiting for CAMHS referrals. Crisis cases should be escalated, and urgent advice obtained from specialists.

Local guidance

8. Stoma and Wound Formularies now hosted on ICB website [LINK](#)

Please see link to local Stoma and Wound formularies, newly updated on the Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB website. Further resources on wounds may be found under the wound care section: [LINK](#)

9. Wessex LMC : Care of Transgender and Non-Binary Patients in Primary Care [LINK](#)

The Wessex local medical committee has a helpful collation of information, resources and links with advice from BMA, GMC, RCGP, CQC and RCN to support prescribers in the management of patients who present at their general practice with gender identity issues.

National guidance

10.SPS : Parkinson’s disease medicines in swallowing difficulties [LINK](#)

This Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) resource aims to ensure patients with Parkinson’s disease (PD) get the most from their medicines if they develop swallowing difficulties and provides

information on PD medicines-food interactions, available formulations and using licensed medicines in unlicensed ways.

11. NHSE: New NHS campaign to help spot early signs of life-threatening constipation in people with a learning disability [LINK](#)

NHS England has developed a series of resources including an animation and posters to support conversations about constipation to help ensure people with a learning disability receive treatment at the earliest opportunity.

NICE guidelines

12. Obesity: identification, assessment and management- updated guidance (CG189) [LINK](#)

Updates include new recommendations on bariatric surgery for people living with overweight and obesity, assessment criteria for people with diabetes, dietary advice after surgery, and conception and pregnancy points for the surgeon to discuss with people thinking about surgery.

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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](#)