



**Specialist
Pharmacy
Service**

NHS

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest January 2023

**Resources to support healthcare
professionals working in all areas
of the health system**

*** Please share with the wider team ***

**The first stop
for professional
medicines advice**

www.sps.nhs.uk





HOT TOPICS

Managing medical gases and oxygen during periods of high demand:

A series of articles providing answers to common questions covering: pharmacy responsibilities, medical gas committees, medical gas pipeline systems, gas delivery systems, and governance

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Self-administration of medicines:

A series of best practice guidance to help support organisations in implementing self-administration of medicines initiatives for patients while in hospital

Medicine administration by registered and non-registered staff: practical guidance describing governance frameworks supporting the administration of medicines by registered and non-registered staff.

Legal mechanisms to supply and administer medicines to individuals: practical guidance describing the legal mechanisms under which medicines can be supplied/administered to patients.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

[Medication Safety](#) - all our medication safety resources are now grouped together

We have published a suite of support and guidance for medication safety officers (MSOs):

[The Medication Safety Officer \(MSO\) role](#)

[Practice support for the Medication Safety Officer \(MSO\)](#)

[Understanding medication safety policy and frameworks](#)

[Responding to medication safety alerts and notifications](#)

[Promoting medication incident reporting](#)

[Reporting and management of medication incidents and harms](#)

[Communication opportunities to improve medication safety](#)

[Collaboration opportunities to improve medication safety](#)

[Conducting a medication incident investigation](#)

[Learning from medication incidents and harms](#)

[Resources to support learning from medication incidents and harms](#)

[Using the Medication Safety Observatory effectively](#)

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

[Using solid oral dosage formulation antibiotics in children](#)

Advice on crushing or dispersing whole solid dosage formulations or opening capsules of antibiotics

[Temperature management for medicines storage:](#)

Best practice advice to help you understand temperature management, prevent problems occurring and managing temperature excursions that occur.

Advice includes control and monitoring of temperature in ambient, refrigerated and freezer storage areas.

[Medication Safety Evidence Summaries: January 2023](#) -

an observatory of the latest medicines safety information including national patient safety alerts, MHRA Drug Safety updates and more.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

[Switching between gabapentin and pregabalin for neuropathic pain](#) - overview of possible dose equivalences, switching methods and considerations to make before switching between gabapentinoids in adults with neuropathic pain.

[Using Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor \(SSRI\) antidepressants during breastfeeding](#) - paroxetine and sertraline are the SSRIs of choice. Recommendations apply to full term and healthy infants only.

[Using codeine, dihydrocodeine or tramadol during breastfeeding](#) - tramadol and dihydrocodeine can be used while breastfeeding for pain control. Codeine should not be used. Advice applies to full term, healthy infants.

[Switching between imatinib preparations](#) - Support for decision making when considering switching imatinib preparations including a locally adaptable patient information leaflet.

GOVERNANCE & REGULATORY

[Assurance of aseptic preparation of medicines](#) - insight and links to updated guidance from NHSE to reflect governance and visibility of the assurance and audit of unlicensed aseptic preparation.

iQAAPS (interactive Quality Assurance of Aseptic Preparation Services) Digital Audit Tool

The iQAAPS system is now being rolled out across England. The system is being introduced to improve oversight and support quality improvement in unlicensed aseptic units.

Units will now submit pre-audit information, receive audit reports and build action plans within the system. Units with an upcoming audit will be provided with accounts for the system and invited to a training session for its use.

GOVERNANCE & REGULATORY

Antimicrobial:

[Supply of nitrofurantoin capsules/tablets for the treatment of Urinary Tract Infection \(UTI\): PGD template](#) – new PGD template published

[Supply of trimethoprim tablets for the treatment of Urinary Tract Infection \(UTI\): PGD template](#) – new PGD template published

Maternal health:

[Intrapartum administration of benzylpenicillin for early-onset Group B Streptococcus \(GBS\) infection in neonates: PGD template](#) – new PGD template published

[Administration of subcutaneous terbutaline sulfate for the reduction of contraction frequency in individuals in labour: PGD template](#) – new PGD template published

Sexual health:

[Supply of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil tablets as pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) for the prevention of HIV infection: PGD template](#) – updated PGD template published

[Supply of doxycycline for the treatment of uncomplicated genital chlamydia trachomatis and non-gonococcal/non-specific urethritis](#) – updated PGD template published

[Supply of azithromycin for the treatment of uncomplicated genital chlamydia trachomatis and non-gonococcal/non-specific urethritis/Mycoplasma genitalium](#) – updated PGD template published

GOVERNANCE & REGULATORY

Reproductive health:

Supply of a progestogen only contraceptive pill (POP): PGD template - updated PGD template published

Supply of a combined oral hormonal contraceptive pill (COC): PGD template - updated PGD template published

Supply of a combined hormonal contraceptive transdermal patch: PGD template - updated PGD template published

Supply of a combined hormonal contraceptive vaginal ring: PGD template - updated PGD template published

Supply and/or administration of subcutaneous medroxyprogesterone acetate (SC-DPMA) injection: PGD template - updated PGD template published

Template protocol for the administration of lidocaine 10mg/mL spray to facilitate intrauterine contraception (IUC) insertion or removal - new protocol template published

Template protocol for the administration of lidocaine 2.5% plus prilocaine 2.5% cream (e.g. EMLA 5% cream, Nulbia 5% cream) to facilitate intrauterine contraception (IUC) insertion or removal: protocol template - new protocol template published

WEBINARS & EVENTS

Upcoming events:

Medicines optimisation in schools – SPS webinar. Tues Feb 7th: 1-2pm. [Register here](#)

[Catch up on our recent events here:](#)

Pharmacy technician coffee break conversations: podcast series. [Listen here](#)

We are developing a programme of webinars for 2023 so make sure you receive our invitations by:

- [registering](#) with us
- *ticking the box to 'opt in' to receive our updates*

RECOMMENDED IN PRIMARY CARE

NEW [Drug interactions](#) - guidance to help decision making about drug interactions.

[Renal impairment](#) - training and guidance to help decision making about the use of medicines in renal impairment.

[Complementary medicines](#) - guidance to help find information on herbal medicines or dietary supplements.

[Adverse drug reactions](#) - guidance to help find information to answer questions about side effects of medicines.

[Contraception](#) - guidance to help find information on contraception and reproductive health.

[Swallowing difficulties](#) - all our advice on using medicines safely and effectively in patients with swallowing difficulties.

[Safety in breastfeeding](#) - all our training and guidance to help decision making about the use of medicines in breastfeeding.

[Safety in pregnancy](#) - all our training and guidance to help decision making about the use of medicines in pregnancy.

[Medicines monitoring](#) - our summarised recommendations and guidance for medicines requiring monitoring.

PLANNING

[New Medicines News](#) - Highlights recent new product launches and regulatory changes.

[New Product Evaluations](#) - Lists new product evaluations freely available to NHS staff.

[Medicines Supply Tool](#) - Information provided by DHSC and NHSE Medicines Supply Teams for medication shortages (you must be registered and signed into our website to access this resource).

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Remdesivir: Ongoing top-up allocations are being made.

IVIg: Due to a further decrease in available volumes of some IVIg products we have reverted to formal allocations. Allocations for February and March are currently being finalised and will then be sent out to Trusts.

Alteplase: Allocations for February have been sent out to Trusts.

OncoTICE[®]: Weekly allocations for the next 13 weeks have been sent out to Trusts.

See [medicines supply tool](#) for more information.

SUPPLY

Epidural Bags: There is a supply issue with a range of epidural bags containing fentanyl and levobupivacaine or bupivacaine. A National Patient Safety Alert has been issued to guide Trusts on the management of this issue.

Imiquimod: There are supply issues with both manufacturers of Imiquimod 5% sachets. An MSN is being prepared to provide guidance on treatment options.

Idacio[®]: There is a supply constraint on this product. There is stock for current patients, however new patients need to be started on an alternative during this time.

Access to the SPS Medicines Advice Service

A single, national telephone number and email for the SPS Medicines Advice Service for primary care-based healthcare professionals, has now been launched.

Phone: 0300 770 8564

Email: asksps.nhs@sps.direct

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