

Gloucestershire ICB Medicines Optimisation Team's Newsletter

September 2024 - ISSUE 83

The Medicines Optimisation website can be found at: [ICB intranet page](#) (located under Primary Care Teams).

The Gloucestershire Joint Formulary is available to all on the INTERNET available at: [Gloucestershire Joint Formulary \(gloshospitals.nhs.uk\)](#) to provide preferred cost-effective medication choices.

To give feedback or for topics for future issues please complete via: <https://forms.office.com/e/R3uW7pVYrc> or email glicb.medicines@nhs.net

Drug Safety Updates

Propranolol toxicity: a reminder of the overdose risk posed by the drug

NHS England was recently sent a report to prevent future deaths from the Courts and Tribunals Judiciary highlighting the overdose risk posed by propranolol (April 2024). This follows a paper in the Emergency Medicine Journal: [Numbers of serious and fatal issues with propranolol on the rise](#). Please be aware of this when prescribing propranolol to those at risk.

Yellow Card Biobank: call to contribute to study of genetic links to side effects

If a patient under your care has experienced one of the side effects included in the pilot phase of the study (severe bleeding events with a DOAC or rare severe skin reactions with allopurinol), please report without delay to the [Yellow Card scheme](#), providing as much information as possible.

Source: [Drug Safety Update](#)

Valproate use in men: as a precaution, men and their partners should use effective contraception

A retrospective observational study has indicated a possible association between valproate use by men around the time of conception and an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in their children. Inform male patients who may father children of this possible increased risk and the recommendation to use effective contraception during valproate treatment and for at least 3 months after stopping valproate.

Source: [Drug Safety Update](#)

Formulary, Traffic-Light and Guideline Updates

Updates can be accessed via the [Joint Formulary](#) or [ICB intranet](#) pages

Formulary Updates

- Valproate entries switched to generic ([chapter 4](#)) - specialists must clearly communicate if patients are required to remain on a particular brand.
- Atogepant classified as 'yellow' ([section 4.7.5.2](#)).
- Recommendation to prescribe immediate release venlafaxine over modified release removed, and recommendation to use MR tablets over MR capsules removed ([section 4.3.4](#)).
- Letrozole added as a 'yellow' drug for infertility ([section 6.5.1.1](#)).

Updates to Traffic Light Drugs and Shared Care Guidelines

- The [Drug Traffic Light List](#) intranet page has been updated. Please refer to the relevant section of the [Joint Formulary](#) for an individual drug's traffic light status. The traffic light list below includes all amber drugs and some yellow drugs where local Prescribing Guidance exists. Some red and green items included are to classify drugs / prescribing areas where there may be some uncertainty, or those which were previously restricted products and have subsequently been reclassified.

Updates to Guidelines

- Chronic (persistent) pain pathway is now available on [G-Care](#) to provide support and guidance for the management of Chronic Pain patients. Audit data highlighting which patients may benefit from Structured Medication Review (SMR) is available via the [PCO Dashboard](#)

Clinical Pharmacy Updates

Adrenal insufficiency: identification and management - guidance (NG243)

In this clinical guideline, NICE provide recommendations on initial identification and referral, pharmacological management, management during physiological or psychological stress, emergency management of adrenal crises, ongoing care and managing glucocorticoid withdrawal.

Source: [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#)

PRAC conclude that hydroxycarbamide can cause falsely high CGM sensor readings

Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee has announced that it considers there to be a causal relationship between hydroxycarbamide and falsely high CGM sensor glucose readings leading to hypoglycaemia. It has recommended that product information (SPC and PIL) should be amended accordingly.

Source: [European Medicines Agency](#)

Testosterone warning from British Menopause Society

The Society has released a statement warning recent articles urging more women to be prescribed testosterone contains 'misinformation'. It stresses it is not an 'essential' hormone as women who have effectively no testosterone production do not require testosterone to be well.

Source: [British Menopause Society](#)

Medicines Supply Updates

Please find below some current medicine supply updates. For a full comprehensive list of current medication shortages, please see the medicines supply tool on the [SPS website](#). It requires an email and password, but you can sign up for email alerts too.

Medicine supply notification: Trandolapril 2mg and 4mg capsules

Notification that trandolapril 2mg and 4mg capsules are expected to be out of stock until late December. Prescribers are asked not to initiate new patients on this treatment and to consider switching patients with insufficient supplies to an alternative ACE inhibitor.

Source: [Community Pharmacy England](#)

Medicine supply notification: Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant granules (MSN/2024/089)

Creon® Micro Pancreatin 60.12mg gastro-resistant (GR) granules are in limited supply until late September. Creon® 10,000 GR caps are in limited supply into primary care via wholesalers. But, a small amount is in secondary care which may be used for the patient cohort on Creon® Micro.

Source: [Community Pharmacy England](#)

Medicine supply notification: Isosorbide mononitrate 60mg modified-release tablets and capsules

Chemydur® 60XL tablets out of stock until late September, Monomax® XL 60mg tablets until early October, Nyzamac® SR 60mg capsules until late October; and Monomil® XL 60mg tablets in limited supply until late December. Isotard® 60XL, Medomon® XL, Relosorb® XL and Tardisc® XL 60mg tablets remain available.

Source: [Community Pharmacy England](#)

Medicine supply notification: Methylphenidate prolonged-release tablets

These are in limited supply and intermittent regional supply disruptions expected to continue until October. Unlicensed supplies of methylphenidate prolonged-release tablets can be sourced, lead times vary. Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse®, Elvanse Adult®) capsules remain available.

Source: [Community Pharmacy England](#)

Other Updates

Valupak® vitamin D3

All Gloucestershire Joint formulary decisions and recommendations are agreed with systemwide stakeholders across primary and secondary care after full consideration of all the clinical, safety, cost, prescribing, supply, and regulatory issues involved. These formulary recommendations therefore represent an informed, collective, consensus opinion on locally preferred prescribing choices in Gloucestershire. Occasionally formulary recommendations are made that are outside a UK medicinal product licenced indication. These decisions are taken by the Gloucestershire Medicines Optimisation Group and Drug & Therapeutics Committee after full consideration of the facts involved, including any alternative licenced products available. As a result of this informed local decision-making process, a product classed as a 'nutritional supplement' rather than a UK licenced medicinal product - Valupak® brand of vitamin D 1000iu - has recently been agreed as the formulary recommended choice of vitamin D3 (colecalfiferol) 1000iu. This adds to the other rare occasion of when a 'nutritional supplement' was agreed, a number of years ago, as the formulary recommended prescribing choice – the high dose vitamin D3 20,000iu brand Hux D3. Local guidance on the prescribing of vitamin D on the NHS in Gloucestershire is available via the formulary [here](#). Any comments, questions, or suggestions from local prescribers on any of the Gloucestershire formulary recommendations are welcome and can be sent to: glicb.medicines@nhs.net

Rivaroxaban tablets – changes to reimbursement from September 2024

Licensed generic rivaroxaban tablets have been available in market following patent expiry of Xarelto®. From September 2024, generic rivaroxaban will cost 86% less than the previous NHS Xarelto® price. This represents a significant NHS savings. The Gloucester formulary will be updated next month to include rivaroxaban, in addition to apixaban, as the formulary recommended first choice DOAC.

Source: [Community Pharmacy England](#)