

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

April 2024

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

April 2024

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Understanding complementary medicines: Points to consider when advising on the use of complementary medicines.

Supply and administration of medicines by staff group:

Different staff groups have different permissions with respect to medicines supply and administration and it is important to ensure legislation is followed.

How to perform preparation risk assessments for ATMPs: Preparation risk assessment tools for cell and tissue-based Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) and in-vivo Gene Therapies.

Using folic acid with phenytoin: Folic acid interacts with phenytoin and can reduce phenytoin blood levels. Concomitant use is possible with careful management of the interaction.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Treating impetigo topically during breastfeeding: Fusidic acid, hydrogen peroxide or mupirocin can be used topically during breastfeeding. Recommendations apply to full term and healthy infants.

Treating nausea during breastfeeding: Some anti-emetics can be used with caution during breastfeeding, depending on the clinical situation. Recommendations apply to full term, healthy infants.

Using tetracycline antibiotics during breastfeeding: Tetracycline is the medicine of choice if a tetracycline is clinically necessary. Recommendations apply to full term and healthy infants.

Medication Safety Update: March 2024: A resource collating the latest medication safety communications and publications to inform, support and inspire medication safety improvements.

WEBINARS & EVENTS

Next events:

Primary care discussions: HRT use in clinical practice

Wednesday 24 April 2024 13:00 - 14:00 [Register here](#)

What's new in PGDs and medicines mechanisms: an update

Wednesday 1 May 2024 13:00 - 14:00 [Register here](#)

Management review and KPIs in pharmacy technical services

Tuesday 21 May 2024 13:00 - 14:00 [Register here](#)

Navigating difficult conversations with confidence

Wednesday 1 June 2024 12:30-14:00 [Register here](#)

Past events:

[Listen back](#) to our past events.

WEBINARS & EVENTS

Join us and come listen to members of the SPS team at CPC London
The Clinical Pharmacy Congress (CPC) is the home of clinical pharmacy.
10 to 11 May 2024 at the ExCeL London and [register using our link](#).

Friday 10 May

Developing Medication Safety Across the System

Leadership & Professional Development Theatre, 09:30-10:15

A behind the scenes look at managing medicines shortages

Technical Services Theatre, 10:45-11:30

Professional leadership journeys – Pharmacy Technicians creating new pathways

Leadership & Professional Development Theatre, 13:15-14:00

Aseptic compounding – a new way to tender

Technical Services Theatre, 14:30-15:00

Supporting Patient Group Direction and Medicines Mechanisms use in practice

Technical Services Theatre, 15:30-16:00

Friday 10 May

The Technical Services workforce in the NHS: recruitment and retention challenges

Technical Services Theatre, 16:30-17:00

How can we maximise the uptake of new generics and biosimilars

Technical Services Theatre, 17:30-18:00

Saturday 11 May

Gene therapies – a developing story for pharmacy

Technical Services Theatre, 10:30-11:15

WEBINARS & EVENTS

Quality Assurance and Technical Services (QATS) Symposium 2024

Bringing together NHS experts and regulators covering topics of quality assurance, quality control, good manufacturing practice and regulatory expectations.

Join us on **17 to 18 October 2024** at Hilton Birmingham Metropole. We're currently busy organising this event, so please check back for registration details.

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

Pabrinex Injection: There is a long term supply issue with the IV and the IM is being discontinued. An MSN has been issued. Allocations have been set at 100% historical usage but may be reviewed going forwards. Further clinical advice is being formulated

Salbutamol nebulas: These continue to be in short supply. MSN has been issued. Supply issues have improved for the 5mg, but imports are still required to support the 2.5mg. Please be aware that unlicensed imports of salbutamol 2.5mg nebulas from Mawdsleys sourced from the USA are labelled as Albuterol which is the US name for salbutamol. It is also 2.5mg in 3ml rather than 2.5ml.

Aciclovir Injection: There are issues with supply, and an MSN is being developed. Trusts will need to order unlicensed imports.

Aztreonam Injection: There is a pending supply issue with this and an MSN is being developed.

Hyrimoz (adalimumab): Sandoz have given notice on the North of England framework. Patients in affected regions will need to be switched to an alternative product by the end of July

Exend+: Trusts now have access and training has been provided. RPPSs are supporting trusts to understand the benefits of the system and populate their data with off contract reasons. This will allow trusts and regions to identify where and how improvements can be made to contract compliance and delivery of better value medicines.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Basiliximab: Supply will be constrained for a period of time. This is being managed by DHSC and the SPS procurement teams. Where possible, please maximise the use of alemtuzumab, to conserve stock for trusts for whom basiliximab is the only option. Orders are being managed by the SPS procurement team, so please contact them for any queries.

Albumin: There are supply constraints of both strengths of albumin. Trusts are on monthly allocations, so please review where this is used and use alternatives if possible.

IV fluids: The supply issues with IV fluids are continuing. MPSC are meeting regularly with suppliers to manage the situation. Please speak to your regional procurement specialists if you have any questions

Alteplase: Allocations for May will be sent out to Trusts shortly. National guidance for the use of alteplase in stroke has changed, however, the supply position remains constrained and cannot support any further increase in use.

ADHD medicines: Further support and information can be found via: [Prescribing available medicines to treat ADHD.](#)

GLP-1 inhibitors: An updated MSN has been issued with details on availability of each product.

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.

Email: askspns.nhs@sps.direct

Phone: 0300 770 8564

KEEP UP TO DATE

Bookmark our website <https://www.sps.nhs.uk>

Register [here](#) on our website and 'opt in' to receive the **weekly SPS bulletin**.

Follow us on **X** @NHS_SPS

You can now also follow us on **LinkedIn** - search NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service or click the link and make sure you connect

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/specialist-pharmacy-service/>

Using our advice

You remain professionally responsible and accountable for your own actions when using our advice and guidance.