

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

November 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

November 2024



HOT TOPIC: Prescribing Outlook 2024

Annual medicines planning publication, Prescribing

Outlook 2024: Our annual output to support managed entry and budget planning for new medicines, new indications and patent expiries in the NHS has been published. (Website registration required, password for spreadsheet is on restricted site).

Using our annual medicines planning publication,

Prescribing Outlook: Users should be aware of the constraints and assumptions in creating Prescribing Outlook, as well as their responsibilities for use

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Varenicline for smoking cessation: SPS PGD template for supply of varenicline to support smoking cessation in specified individuals.

Supporting safe use of adrenal crisis emergency management kits: Treatment of adrenal crisis is time critical and relies on timely use of injectable hydrocortisone to prevent harm.

Using statins in liver impairment: We outline key clinical considerations when initiating statins in patients with liver disease or liver impairment.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Temperature management for medicines storage

video: A short video about temperature controlled storage of medicines

Using loperamide in high output stoma or short

bowel syndrome: This updated guidance explores the dosing and monitoring advice when using high dose loperamide to reduce high stoma output or in short bowel syndrome in adults.

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

Safer use of time critical medicines

Have you undertaken any work on the safer use of
time critical medicines?

Whether big or small, successful or experiencing
challenges - **we want to hear from you!**

Contact us at
lnwh-tr.sps-mso@nhs.net
to share your work



WEBINARS AND EVENTS:

3rd December
13:00 – 16:00

**Improving Health
Outcomes in Health and
Justice**



[REGISTER HERE](#)

11th December
13:00 – 14:00

**Biosimilar and key generic
medicines – delivering
better value**



[REGISTER HERE](#)

18th December
13:00 – 14:00

**Management review and
KPIs in pharmacy technical
services**



[REGISTER HERE](#)

PREVIOUS EVENTS:



Take a look at our previous events and listen back.

Webinar recordings are available [here](#).

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY DHSC

Pancreatic Enzyme replacement therapy: A NatPSA has been issued (May 2024). There are supply constraints on Creon and Nutrizym. Please make sure to regularly check the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for the latest updates. A public facing page, [Prescribing and ordering available pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies](#) and [mini-tool](#) have been developed on the SPS website.

Viatrix UK has initiated a free Creon® customer service line dedicated to patients and healthcare professional affected by Creon® supply constraint. The purpose of the service is to provide the most up to date information on the supply of Creon®. The service will aim to provide information on the nearest pharmacies which have recently received supply. The Creon® customer service line can be reached via 0800 8086410. The service will be active from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00.

Shortage of Molybdenum99/Technetium-99m generators: The issue has now been resolved and supply has returned to normal. The NatPSA has been stood down.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY DHSC

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. Further information can be found via [Prescribing available GLP-1 receptor agonists](#)

Hydroxocobalamin (Cyanokit): Stock issues are expected until May 2025. Unlicensed sodium thiosulfate (an alternative antidote for cyanide poisoning) is available and can support an increased demand, where appropriate, available from Mawdsleys or Smartway. Unlicensed imports of Cyanokit are being sourced. Refer to the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for further information (website registration required).

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Pegasys Injection: Supply will be constrained until June 2025. An MSN has been issued. Allocations of remaining stock have been issued to Trusts. These are fixed for the period of the supply disruption. Imports can be sourced to support supply. An [urgent interim commissioning policy](#) is available.

Calcium Folate Injection: There are ongoing supply issues across all strengths and suppliers. An MSN has been issued. Imports will be needed to support in the interim and Trusts will need to order these in sufficient quantities bearing in mind lead times.

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. A NatPSA has been issued.

Tyenne (tocilizumab): Supply from FK is constrained for the rest of the year. Updated information on SC supply has been issued. Delivery schedules will now revert to normal and further switching may soon become possible. Further updates will be provided via SPS procurement teams. The supply position for IV is being reviewed regularly and further updates will be provided if the supply position changes.

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

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.