

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 48

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1. Local denosumab prescribing in the treatment of osteoporosis and fracture prevention

New primary care prescribing guidance has been developed to support GPs with the prescribing of denosumab. These guidelines have been developed with local specialists and discuss issues such as monitoring requirements and discontinuation advice. These can be located on the West Hampshire GP Portal under shared care guidelines ([Link](#))

2. Structured medication review brief for patients

The new NHS Hampshire Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG website explains the role of CCG Medicines Optimisation teams ([Link](#)). Within these pages is a useful briefing document outlining what patients should expect when having a structured medication review (SMR). GP practices and PCNs may find it helpful to link to this document when inviting patients for SMRs

3. Revised SPC: Neurontin (gabapentin) tablets

The revised summary of product characteristics (SPC) for gabapentin (Neurontin) ([Link](#)) warns of risk of fatal respiratory depression with concomitant administration with opioid-containing drugs and other CNS depressants. Patients who require concomitant treatment should be carefully observed for signs, such as somnolence, sedation, and respiratory depression.

4. COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19 (NG191)]- update ([Link](#))

There have been some updates to the COVID-19 rapid guideline:

- Azithromycin should not be used to treat COVID-19
- Do not offer colchicine to people in hospital to treat COVID-19
- Only use colchicine to treat COVID-19 in community settings as part of a clinical trial.

- Guidance for hospital use of remdesivir for COVID-19 pneumonia has been updated.
- A minor change to the recommendation on using pulse oximetry to identify people with severe COVID-19 in primary and community care settings has been added to clarify that for adults the NHS England guide should be followed.

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Previous bulletins can be found at:

<https://gp-portal.westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/medicines/covid-19-medicines-information/covid-19-medicines-optimisation-bulletins/>

For COVID-19 vaccine related updates, please refer to the regular NHSE&I Primary Care Bulletins.
Please click on this link to subscribe ([Link](#))