

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

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Issue: 60

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## 1. MHRA Drug safety update: Adrenaline auto-injectors: reminder for prescribers to support safe and effective use ([Link](#))

Emerade 300 and 500 microgram adrenaline auto-injectors have been re-supplied to the market following the implementation of corrective actions. Patients and their caregivers should be provided with training and advice specific to their prescribed adrenaline auto-injector. Follow the advice in the Summary of Product Characteristics for dosing considerations and continue to reiterate to patients the importance of carrying 2 in-date adrenaline auto-injectors with them at all times.

## 2. NICE COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing the long-term effects of COVID-19- updated guidance (NG188) ([Link](#))

This guideline covers identifying, assessing and managing the long-term effects of COVID-19, often described as 'long COVID'. It makes recommendations about care in all healthcare settings for adults, children and young people who have new or ongoing symptoms 4 weeks or more after the start of acute COVID-19. It also includes advice on organising services for long COVID.

## 3. Revised SPC: Forxiga (dapagliflozin) tablets ([Link](#))

The SPC of Forxiga has been updated to remove the **type 1 diabetes mellitus** (T1DM) indication. Therefore, Forxiga is no longer licensed for the treatment of patients with T1DM. Manufacturers report that the withdrawal of this indication is not due to new safety concerns but notes that diabetic ketoacidosis is a known and common side effect when used in T1DM.

It is anticipated that this will affect a very small number of patients. Locally this will be discussed at the Prescribing Committees and guidance will follow.

## 4. SPS Medicines Supply Tool ([Link](#))

SPS have produced a Medicines Supply tool which provides the latest information on supply issues, actions to take, alternatives to use, and expected resolution

dates. The content is provided by DHSC and CMU. Registration is required but is free. Please see the link above for access.

#### **5. MHRA: New product Lagevrio (molnupiravir) 200 mg hard capsules ([Link](#))**

The MHRA has approved the first oral antiviral for COVID-19, molnupiravir. This ribonucleoside analog  $\beta$ -D-N4-hydroxycytidine broad spectrum antiviral is licensed for treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults with a positive SARS-COV-2 test and at least one risk factor for developing severe illness at a dose of 800mg twice daily for 5 days.

Molnupiravir is safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at increased risk of developing severe disease. Based on the clinical trial data, molnupiravir is most effective when taken during the early stages of infection and is recommended to use as soon as possible following a positive COVID-19 test and within five days of symptoms onset.

Molnupiravir has been authorised for use in people who have mild to moderate COVID-19 and at least one risk factor for developing severe illness. Such risk factors include obesity, older age (>60 years), diabetes mellitus, or heart disease.

The MHRA approved this treatment on November 4th. Molnupiravir will be deployed as part of the UK PANORAMIC study ([Link](#)), which is likely to commence in December. GP practices are welcome to take part in the study and further details will be available in due course.

#### **6. SPS: Using oral anticoagulants in breastfeeding women ([Link](#))**

Please see the SPS information regarding thromboembolic disease management in breastfeeding women. Warfarin is the preferred choice, but guidance on using DOACs is also provided. Recommendations apply to full-term and healthy infants only.

#### **7. NEWT password changes on 27th November 2021 ([link](#))**

The HSI CCG access to the NEWT guidelines will be changing on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Please speak to your local Medicines Management teams for the new password.

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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/>*