

# Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

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## 1. NHSE&I: Commissioning recommendations for the national procurement of direct acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) ([Link](#))

NHSE&I have published the commissioning recommendations following the national procurement of DOACs.

For patients commencing treatment for AF: subject to the criteria specified in the relevant NICE technology appraisal guidance, clinicians should use edoxaban where this is clinically appropriate. If edoxaban is contraindicated or not clinically appropriate for the specific patient then, subject to the criteria specified in the relevant NICE technology appraisal guidance, clinicians should then consider rivaroxaban first, then apixaban or dabigatran.

For patients already prescribed a DOAC for the treatment of AF: subject to the criteria specified in the relevant NICE technology appraisal guidance, commissioners may wish to consider developing local policy to review patients currently prescribed apixaban, rivaroxaban or dabigatran, where clinically appropriate.

## 2. NHSE&I: Assessment, monitoring and management of symptomatic COVID-19 patients in the community ([Link](#))

This guidance has been developed to support frontline clinicians with the assessment, monitoring and treatment of patients who present to general practice with symptomatic COVID-19. There may be local variation in the pathways to access community monitoring and therapeutics. This guidance aims to provide a high-level overview on which patients are eligible, as well as information on how to support your patients to access these interventions.

## 3. SPS: Sodium content of medicines

SPS have recently produced resources to highlight the sodium content of medicines. These can be found via the links below.

- SPS: Sodium content of medicines for constipation and diarrhoea. ([Link](#))

- SPS: Sodium content of miscellaneous dispersible, effervescent and soluble medicines ([Link](#))

#### **4. SPS: Covert administration of medicines in adults: pharmaceutical issues** ([Link](#))

This article, part of a series of two, provides a summary of the pharmaceutical issues to consider and reference sources available to help pharmacists and other healthcare professionals provide advice on covert administration of medicines. The other article in the series covers legal issues ([Link](#)).

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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/>*