

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 20

Date: 22 July 2020

1. Electronic notifications for emergency repeat medication supply by community pharmacies

Most community pharmacies in England will be able to send electronic notifications for emergency supplies of medicines provided as part of the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service ([Link](#)) by the end of this month (July 2020).

The new functionality, which is already in use at pharmacies using Sonar Informatics, will be enabled for pharmacies using Pinnacle's PharmOutcomes system over the next three weeks. This means that GP practices that can receive the electronic workflow notifications (all TPP SystemOne practices and some EMIS Web practices in pilot) will start to see an increase in numbers.

More information is available on the NHS Digital website. ([Link](#))

2. Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) advice: Switching between liquid and tablet/capsule formulations – Which medicines require extra care? ([Link](#))

This Q&A considers which medicines may require dose adjustment when switching between oral formulations and presents information on dose adjustment in a summary table. Practical advice is offered where it may not be possible to achieve an equivalent dose.

3. NIHR Alert: Asthma patients with a history of opioid use have worse outcomes ([Link](#))

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has provided commentary of an asthma study including patients with a history of opioid use disorders. It showed the rates of attendance at an annual asthma review were poor and there was a higher likelihood of use of prednisolone, suggesting asthma was less well-controlled, increasing risk of asthma attacks, in this group.

4. Which medicines can be used to treat allergic rhinitis during pregnancy? [\(Link\)](#)

Rhinitis affects at least 20% of pregnancies and can start during any gestational week. Pre-existing rhinitis may worsen, improve, or remain unchanged during pregnancy. This updated Q&A by Specialist Pharmacy Services covers drug treatment choices suitable for use in pregnancy.

5. COVID-19 in people with diabetes: understanding the reasons for worse outcomes [\(Link\)](#)

The Lancet review provides systematic assessment of potential prognostic factors in patients with diabetes with COVID-19, noting that poorer prognosis is likely consequence of syndromic nature of disease (hyperglycaemia, older age, comorbidities, particularly hypertension, obesity, & CVD).

6. Potassium Permanganate (Permitabs)

There is a risk of patients taking Potassium Permanganate (Permitabs) orally. To minimise this risk community pharmacists will be asked to:

- Only dispense in original pack
- Do not decant into a different container
- Ensure patient understands when handing out

Therefore please **prescribe in quantities of 30 tablets** so that original containers can be used.

For further information please see [Link](#)