

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 40

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1. DHSC: Colchicine in the management of COVID-19 – Trial Use Only. ([Link](#))

Colchicine should not be used in the management of COVID-19 within primary care, other than in the context of a trial. Use in licensed indications remains unaffected. Subject to regulatory approval, agreement has been reached to add colchicine to the PRINCIPLE trial. Practices are encouraged to continue to support recruitment to this important UK platform trial, which is evaluating potential COVID-19 therapies in primary care.

2. DHSC & NHSE&I: Supply disruption alert: Phyllocontin® (Aminophylline) 225mg and 350mg modified release tablets ([Link](#))

Phyllocontin® (aminophylline) Continus 225mg and Phyllocontin® Forte Continus 350mg modified-release tablets are being discontinued in the UK. Remaining supplies of the 225mg strength are expected to be exhausted by 2nd March 2021 and the 350mg strength are expected to be exhausted by 5th April 2021.

All healthcare professionals in primary, secondary and specialist healthcare services who prescribe aminophylline preparations should not initiate new patients on aminophylline tablets (Phyllocontin® Continus 225mg and Forte Continus 350mg modified-release tablets). Prescribers are asked to review all affected patients and optimise inhaled therapies. Patients who still require a methylxanthine, will need to be switched to theophylline tablets (Uniphyllin Continus®). Details of dose conversions and monitoring requirements can be found in the alert.

3. Medicines in Pregnancy Registry: Valproate use in females ([Link](#))

NHS Digital and the MHRA are developing comprehensive national Medicines in Pregnancy Registries which can give a better understanding of the use, benefits, and risks of medicines taken in pregnancy. This report analyses patient data regarding valproate use in female aged 0-54 between April 2018 to September 2020.

Previous bulletins can be found at:

<https://gp-portal.westhampshireccq.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](#))