

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 53

Date: 18th August 2021

1. NEWT GUIDELINES subscription extension to include GP practices ([LINK](#))

The NEWT guidelines are a valuable on-line resource providing prescribers and other healthcare professionals with information relating to medicines management in patients with enteral feeding tubes or with swallowing difficulties. This information often involves off-label recommendations and is updated regularly. Until recently, the subscriptions were limited to organisations e.g., CCGs or individual practices. NHS Hampshire Southampton, and Isle of Wight CCG has now subscribed to a CCG-wide package that allows individual GP practices and PCNs as well as CCG Medicines Management teams access. This is an excellent resource for all medicines queries relating to swallowing difficulties, as well as enteral feeding. Contact your area's Medicines Management team for logon details.

2. SPS guidance: Drug Monitoring ([LINK](#))

The Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) provides an up to date summary of recommendations for drugs requiring monitoring. This is an A to Z list of medicines with associated monitoring advice in a new digital format. Please note the drop-down menu on top left hand side. This differentiates between tests needed at different stages (before starting, ongoing, abnormal results etc.)

3. Lipid Management – Rapid Uptake Product ([Link](#))

Improving outcomes for patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a clinical priority in the NHS Long-Term Plan. To support delivery of this part of the NHS Long-Term Plan, the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) Lipid Management Rapid Uptake Product (RUP) Working Group have developed a NICE-endorsed clinical pathway along with a companion document for statin intolerance:

- Summary of national guidance for lipid management for primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) [link](#); and
- Statin intolerance pathway [link](#).

The aim of these pathways is to simplify and encourage adherence to national guidance for optimal management of patients at high risk of CVD and reducing the incidence of heart attacks or strokes.

This RUP has an exclusive focus on secondary prevention and the AAC is working in partnership with the North East and North Cumbria AHSN, who are leading the AHSN Lipid Management and FH Programme.

4. UHS Discharge Medicines Service telephone number

From the 1st August, the Pharmacy Department at University Hospital Southampton have a new telephone number for discharge medication queries.

It is: **02381 206 086. Available Monday to Friday, between 9am - 5pm.**

Please use this number, unless you are already liaising with a named pharmacist via their bleep/extension number.

5. SPC update: Emerade (adrenaline tartrate) 500 micrograms, solution for injection in pre-filled pen ([Link](#))

Method of instruction has been updated to state a second injection should be administered if the patient still feels unwell and SPC now states any non-functioning pens should be retained for investigation.

6. National Patient Safety Alert: Potent synthetic opioids implicated in increase in drug overdoses. 18th August 2021 ([Link](#))

In the past 10-14 days there have been an unprecedented number of overdoses (with some deaths) in people who use drugs, primarily heroin, in some parts of the country including Hampshire.

Staff may encounter people who use drugs and so should ensure they are:

- made aware of the risk of severe toxicity resulting from adulteration of heroin with potent synthetic opioids such as isotonitazene
- made aware the potency and toxicity of isotonitazene is perhaps similar to, or more than, fentanyl, which is about 100x morphine
- alert to the symptoms of opioid overdose in known and suspected heroin users
- communicate these risks to heroin users during any contacts
- ensure people who use heroin and others who might encounter an opioid overdose have naloxone available (Widening the availability of naloxone)

For full details of the alert then please see the link above.

7. SCAN survey

The SCAN antibiotic guidelines have now been live on the MicroGuide platform for one year and so SCAN are inviting feedback from the end-users of the SCAN guidelines. Please complete the survey on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7NZVMLP>

Please can responses to the survey be **completed by 31st August 2021**.

**Prepared by Anita Bhardwaj, Sue Wakelin and Dr Emma Harris
On behalf of the Hampshire, Southampton and IoW CCG Medicines Optimisation Team**

Previous bulletins can be found at: <https://gp-portal.westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/medicines/covid-19-medicines-information/covid-19-medicines-optimisation-bulletins/>