

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 54

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1. NICE Guidance: Chronic kidney disease: assessment and management (25th August 2021) NG203 ([Link](#))

This revised guideline covers care of people with, or at risk of, chronic kidney disease (CKD). It aims to prevent or delay progression and reduce the risk of complications and cardiovascular disease. It also covers managing anaemia and hyperphosphataemia associated with CKD.

There are new and updated recommendations on:

- investigations for CKD
- classification of CKD
- frequency of monitoring
- risk assessment, referral criteria and shared care
- blood pressure control
- medicines for CKD
- phosphate binders to manage mineral and bone disorders
- glomerular filtration rate for diagnosing anaemia associated with CKD
- intravenous iron for treating anaemia associated with CKD

It also includes three one-page visual summaries: Identifying CKD in adults, phosphate binders and managing proteinuria.

2. MHRA drug safety update: Topical corticosteroids: information on the risk of topical steroid withdrawal reactions. 15th September 2021. ([Link](#))

Rarely, severe adverse effects can occur on stopping treatment with topical corticosteroids, often after long-term continuous or inappropriate use of moderate to high potency products. The MHRA have published this drug safety update which outlines the need to reduce the risks of these events and to prescribe the topical corticosteroid of lowest potency needed. Prescribers are reminded to ensure patients know how to use it safely and effectively.

3. National Patient Safety Alert: Elimination of bottles of liquefied phenol 80% (25th August 2021) ([Link](#))

Following incidents where bottles of liquefied phenol 80% were confused with other medication or caused burns when spilt, this alert asks providers of podiatry services, including those in general practice, to eliminate use and follow professional guidance on safer alternatives. To be actioned as soon as possible and no later than 25 Feb 2022.

4. Draft NICE Guidance: Inclisiran ([Link](#))

Inclisiran is a new anti-cholesterol drug which has recently been discussed in the news. NICE have developed draft guidance supporting use of inclisiran injection (Leqvio) for people with primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia who have already had a cardiovascular event such as a heart attack or stroke.

GPs may be approached by patients to prescribe inclisiran. However as NICE guidance has not been finalised, this is not currently available to prescribe.

The final NICE TA guidance is due at the beginning of October 2021.

5. Public Health England: Introduction of Shingrix® for immunocompromised individuals for whom Zostavax® is clinically contraindicated ([Link](#))

From 1 September 2021, GPs should offer the non-live shingles vaccine Shingrix® to all those who are eligible for shingles vaccination but are clinically contraindicated to receive the live vaccine Zostavax® due to their immunocompromised status. This is based on the recommendation made by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

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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/>