

## Epimax®: reports of ocular toxicity/injury

Epimax® ointments can harm the eyes if used on the face. The [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#) guidance sets out the following:

- Do not prescribe or advise use of Epimax® ointment/paraffin free ointment for use on the face
- Be aware that if either of these products comes into contact with the eyes, patients may present with pain, swelling, redness or watering of eyes, sensitivity to light, blurred vision, burning or grittiness. Symptoms should resolve with discontinuation of the product around the eyes and can be treated with topical lubricants, topical antibiotics or topical steroids as required
- Counsel patients on the potential for serious symptoms if it comes into contact with their eyes, and that the ointment is only for use on the body. Also remind patients to wash their hands thoroughly after applying the ointment.
- Report suspected adverse reactions associated with Epimax® ointment/paraffin free ointment via [LFPSE](#) and the [Yellow Card scheme](#).

More information is available in the [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#) and the [manufacturer's Field Safety Notice](#).

## Valproate in women of childbearing potential – update

University Hospitals Dorset Neurology team have been auditing women who require enrolling in a Pregnancy Prevention Programme. 29 of the 100 people eligible now have an annual risk assessment in place and the service continues to reach out to patients directly where they have contact information. Where the service does not have access to patient contact information, they are contacting practice and requesting a GP referral.

The Neurology team are hoping to have completed the reviews by the end of August 2024 except where a referral is awaited from primary care.

Dorset HealthCare continue to reach out to practices for outstanding reviews who have not been referred to CMHTs for an annual risk assessment.

## Drug shortages / supply issues

- Pancreatin Enzyme Replacement Therapy is becoming an increasing concern regarding supplies. A system co-ordinated response is available on the [Dorset Formulary](#).

## #HelpYourNHS

The [#HelpYourNHS](#) campaign aims to reduce the prescriptions of over-the-counter medicines for 35 minor conditions, to reduce 40,000 wasted hours in general practice and make better use of our prescribing resources.

To support this campaign, NHS Dorset has developed a variety of resources, including: eye-catching posters, informative postcards for consultations, digital screen images, engaging social media content, printable materials and videos, patient complaint letter templates, streamlined complaints handling, newsletter and website text and text message instructions.

All these resources can be found on the [NHS Dorset Sharepoint site](#) (accessible for anyone with a @dorsetGP.nhs.uk email address).

## Quick bites

- The Dorset Formulary is available at: [www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk](http://www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk).
- New resource available – the NHS Dorset website now has a ‘guidance’ page which includes links to important information on a wide range of medicines and prescribing related topics, including: adverse incidents/drug reactions, high risk drugs, medicine storage/cold chain, prescription forms, prescriber codes, and controlled drugs. Have a look at the page <https://nhsdorset.nhs.uk/medicines/guidance/> and let us know if there is anything that you would like to see included.
- We have received a number of queries from across the system on Tirzepatide for treating type 2 diabetes. The formulary information including pathways/commissioning statement can be found [here](#). Further information on Antihyperglycemic agents for the management of Type 2 diabetes – the Dorset Pathway can also be found on the Dorset formulary [here](#).
- In September 2024 SCAN (antimicrobial) Guidelines will be moving from the current MicroGuide platform to the new [Eolas Medical platform](#). The content and format of the existing SCAN Guidelines will remain the same, but the new platform will have extra functionality, including integration with the BNF and NICE Guidelines. More information on the move from MicroGuide to Eolas Medical, including resources to promote this change, will follow over the summer.
- Recent updates to SCAN guidance (Version 9.4) – [Cellulitis](#), [Acute Prostatitis](#) and [Epididymo-Orchitis](#) in line with the MHRA safety alert on quinolones, [Scabies](#) and [Scabies \(CHILDREN\)](#) - updated to confirm supply of Permethrin 5% cream is now resolved.
- From Thursday 1 August 2024, the following medicines will no longer be in scope for the HRT pre-payment certificate: Bedol<sup>®</sup>, Climantor<sup>®</sup>, and Clinorette<sup>®</sup>. This is due to the items being discontinued. As Climantor<sup>®</sup> is being removed, the medicine medroxyprogesterone on its own will also be removed from the list.
- SPS guidance on [concerns of using NSAIDs in adults with asthma](#), risk factors for NSAID sensitivity, and prescribing scenarios (NSAID naïve; tolerance to NSAIDs, NSAID-exacerbated respiratory disease).
- Lyme Disease UK has a [dedicated page](#) on their website for pharmacy teams. Understanding the early symptoms of Lyme disease and recognising the erythema migrans (bullseye) rash is important to ensure appropriate advice is given and patients are signposted to their GP.
- New recommendations for use of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines – JCVI has advised that a one-off catch-up campaign should be introduced for those currently aged 75 -79, then a routine programme for those turning 75 years old. Additionally, from September 2024, the RSV vaccine should be offered to all pregnant women from week 28 gestation, in every pregnancy. For more information refer to [chapter 27a of the Green Book](#).

## Learning

- The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has published a [Green physician toolkit](#) that brings together the evidence on health and climate change, and suggests actions that physicians can take in their day-to-day practice.
- Webinar: understanding our Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators data – join Clare Howard, Clinical Lead for Medicines Optimisation at Wessex Heath Innovation Network (HIN), as she takes you through the reasoning and benefits of the Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators dashboard hosted in ePACT2. [Register for the webinar](#), taking place on 19 September 2024, 12pm to 1.30pm.

## REGIONAL MEDICINES INFORMATION SERVICE

If you work in primary care (including community pharmacy), specialist medicines advice can be obtained from SPS via **0300 7708564** or email [asksp.nhs@sps.direct](mailto:asksp.nhs@sps.direct). (Staff in Dorset NHS Trusts should seek advice from their pharmacy teams).

This newsletter is for healthcare professionals. It represents what is known at the time of writing so information may be subsequently superseded.