

Telling us about changes to non-medical prescribers in your practice

We have now developed a new online form to make it easier for you to let us know about NMP leavers and joiners to your practice/PCN. Access it via the [NHS Dorset website](#). Bookmark the page so it is easy to find!
NB: this form is only intended for changes to NMPs, changes to medical (GP) prescribers should be submitted via the individual doctor's PCSE account.

Formulary training videos

We are pleased to announce that new Formulary training videos are now available on the 'Training and Resources' page of the [medicines optimisation portal of the NHS Dorset website](#) (scroll down to the bottom of the page). The videos are in bite sized chunks and cover various topics including navigating the formulary, finding the information you need, what the traffic light statuses mean, what resources are available to support use of the formulary. All staff in primary care are encouraged to make use of these valuable videos for familiarizing yourself with the Dorset formulary.

Drug shortages / supply issues

- A [serious shortage protocol](#) has been issued to enable pharmacists to dispense cefalexin 500mg capsules instead of cefalexin 500mg tablets. The SSP will remain valid until 27/9/24.
- A [serious shortage protocol](#) has been issued to enable pharmacists to dispense ramipril 2.5mg capsules instead of ramipril 2.5mg tablets. The SSP will remain valid until 15/11/24.
- Kay-Cee-L® (potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml) syrup will be out of stock from September 2024. The resupply date not known. Supply disruption is caused by an amendment to the manufacturing process, requiring re-formulation of the product. For more details, including potential alternative products, refer to the [National Patient Safety Alert](#).
- Norethisterone (Noriday®) 350microgram tablets will be out of stock from late August 2024 until early December 2024. consider prescribing desogestrel 75microgram tablets, if appropriate, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to the drug and any of the excipients and is counselled on the dosing regimen. For more information refer to the [SPS medicines supply tool](#) (free login needed).

BMS statement on testosterone use in menopause

The British Menopause Society has issued a statement on use of testosterone in the menopause. This is in response to a recent significant increase in media attention for more women to be prescribed testosterone. Some information has been written by lay people and it appears that the information may have been drafted to support personal opinion. This risks medicalising a normal life stage.

The statement says:

Whilst some women do benefit from addition of testosterone [during the menopause], this is not the case for all women and in the interest of patient safety, it is important that women are advised within readily available clinical guidelines from [NICE](#), the [British Menopause Society \(BMS\)](#) and the [International Menopause Society \(IMS\)](#). These were developed to support patient safety, not to prevent women from accessing treatment.

The only evidence-based indication for adding testosterone to HRT is for **persistent low libido in postmenopausal women**, after all other contributory factors have been addressed. The use of testosterone for this indication is 'off-label' and has an 'amber' traffic light status locally. There is **no evidence** to support claims that testosterone will help with other symptoms associated with menopause or prevent bone loss or dementia. Read the full British Menopause Society statement [here](#).

Interim commissioning arrangements for CGM

Dorset is working with system partners through the Diabetes Clinical Network to plan and prioritise the commissioning of hybrid closed loop (HCL) systems for people with type 1 diabetes in accordance with the NHS England 5-year strategy. To provide HCL systems to those most in need, we need to review our current commissioning of diabetes technologies in Dorset to ensure technologies are being used to achieve the best possible outcomes. As a result of this review, our current commissioning policy for continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), funding and equality impact statements will be updated.

During this review we recommend **new type 2 patients** being considered for CGM should only be initiated after **diabetes consultant approval** – either through direct consultant care or via advice and guidance. A revised CGM commissioning policy is due to be published in the Autumn.

CGM is still commissioned for new patients with type 1 and type 3c diabetes, and those patients prescribed insulin receiving haemodialysis. We apologise for the inconvenience in making this difficult interim decision.

Quick bites

- The Dorset Formulary is available at: www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk.
- The local campaign - [Only Order What You Need](#) – has been shortlisted for a national award. Following its launch in early 2024 the cost of repeat prescriptions in Dorset has reduced by around £450,000. **Thank you to all the teams who have helped to achieve this reduction.** The success of the campaign has seen it shortlisted in the Medicines Pharmacy and Prescribing Initiative of the Year category of the 2024 Health Service Journal (HSJ) awards!
- The annual NHS [#AskAboutAsthma](#) awareness campaign returns from September 9-15. It is about making simple changes to children and young people's care to make a big difference to how they experience their asthma. Get involved by visiting the [campaign webpage](#) to download the 2024 campaign toolkit and factsheets including for [Primary Care](#) and [Pharmacy](#). A series of [webinars](#) will be held during the week, which are free to attend.
- [Key advice for the public](#) on medicines and medical devices for the holiday season including advice on 'dodgy' hayfever treatments, travelling with an implanted medical device, medicines causing reactions to sunlight, medicines and vaccines for tropical diseases, and fake weight loss drugs.
- [Vaccine update: issue 347, July 2024](#) – including special information and guidance for healthcare practitioners in preparation for RSV vaccination, including information on routine/non-routine supply.

Learning

- PrescQIPP and the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) are excited to present a series of seven webinars to raise awareness of social prescribing. Attendees who complete all seven webinars (whether participating in the live events or having watched the recordings), will be awarded 'Social Prescribing Champion' status as part of the NASP clinical champion programme. The webinars run from September 2024 to March 2025. View the flyer [here](#).
- RPS & RCGP Repeat Prescribing Toolkit webinar: Improving patient safety and system efficiency – 2nd October 2024 12pm – 1pm. Register [here](#).

Staff changes in the Medicines Optimisation Team

We say goodbye to Emma Fleck, Specialist Pharmacist Technician, who left us at the end of August. Welcome to two new members of staff joining us – Ellen Sinden, Senior Pharmacist started at the end of August and Emma Sharman, Pharmacy Technician joins us in September.

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 askspnhs@sps.direct. (Staff in Dorset NHS Trusts should seek advice from their pharmacy teams).