

## Medicines safety: hospital/specialist medications – add to SystemOne

Please add medications prescribed by external services (e.g. hospitals, specialist centres or dentists) to the patient's summary care records. This ensures that anyone accessing the summary care record will have access to a full and complete list of a patient's medicines.

Medicines recorded on SystemOne but not prescribed in primary care will also then be included in the drug interaction checker and the full record can be reviewed to assess for adverse effects e.g. clozapine and constipation.

Information about how to record hospital only medication on SystemOne is available in [guidance on Sharepoint](#). Please take care not to enter the medicine on the record in a way that results in a prescription inadvertently being generated.

## Drug shortages / supply issues

- Kay-Cee-L<sup>®</sup> (potassium chloride 5mmol/5ml) syrup will be discontinued from late November 2024 due to manufacturing and commercial issues. Sando-K<sup>®</sup> (potassium bicarbonate 400mg and potassium chloride 600mg) effervescent tablets remain available and can support a full increase in demand. One effervescent tablet contains 12mmol potassium. Unlicensed potassium chloride oral solutions manufactured within the UK are available via Specials manufacturers, lead times vary.

## Unspecified code items

Every month, the NHS BSA sends the Medicines Team a list of items that have been prescribed that have an 'unspecified code'. This means that the item is not listed in the NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices. These items are usually associated with extra cost. Some items appearing on the list are expected, for example, special order preparations. However, there are other items that could be swapped for a suitable item listed in the NHS BSA database. Locally, there are 2 items for which this could be easily achieved.

### Hypromellose 0.5% eye drops

All Hypromellose eye drop products are considered self-care items, therefore patients would usually be encouraged to purchase them. If a prescription is clinically appropriate, then please note that all existing hypromellose products are now listed in the appliances section of the drug tariff, and therefore need to be prescribed by brand. Hypromellose eye 0.5% eye drops are also non-formulary. Refer to the Dorset Formulary for suitable 0.3% options.

### Macrogol compound oral powder sachets NPF

All versions of macrogol sachets in DM&D are sugar free. Please choose a sugar free product when prescribing.

## Repeat Prescribing Toolkit

The RPS and RCGP have developed a practical [toolkit](#) designed to improve the consistency, safety and efficiency of repeat prescribing systems in general practices in England. The toolkit was commissioned by NHS England and is a recommendation from the 2021 National Overprescribing Review, which recognised the impact that poorly operated repeat prescribing can have on over prescribing and problematic polypharmacy.

The toolkit also includes practical guidance on improving communication with patients about repeat prescribing, supported by good practice case studies, flow charts, action plan templates, and useful resources. Alongside the toolkit, a new NHS dashboard is available, highlighting the scale of potential oversupply of medicines for a range of prescribing areas. The oversupply dashboard is accessible through ePACT2. If you're already registered for ePACT2, [visit the dashboard](#).

## Liothyronine use in Dorset

Liothyronine is now on the formulary and there is an updated [position statement](#) to clarify the opinion of the Dorset Endocrinology Task & Finish Group on the use of liothyronine (T3) and related products for thyroid hormone replacement. The [formulary](#) has been updated. Searches to identify existing patients receiving liothyronine in primary care are available on SystmOne in Dorset SystmOne GPs > PQS Finance > F3 Low Clinical Value (these searches exclude patients with a diagnosis of thyroid cancer or treatment resistant depression).

## Continuous blood glucose monitoring update

An updated [CGM policy](#) has been approved under the direction of the 'Diabetes Clinical Network'. People with Type 2 diabetes will have reduced access to CGM to fund the 'Hybrid Closed Loop' system being offered to children and people who are pregnant with Type 1 diabetes. CGM use will need to reduce in Type 2 diabetes in line with the increased use of hybrid closed loop systems to continue to offer this life changing technology in 25/26.

### Quick bites

- The Dorset Formulary is available at: [www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk](http://www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk).
- The MHRA has published guidance for users of diabetes management equipment, their families, caregivers and representatives on '[Insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring \(CGM\) equipment: guidance for users on reporting suspected adverse incidents and safety concerns to the Yellow Card scheme](#)'. This includes step-by-step guidance and examples of the types of issues which should be flagged and how people using these devices can report these suspected safety concerns using the [MHRA's Yellow Card scheme](#). A [poster for displaying in clinical settings](#) has also been made available, containing a QR code direct to the MHRA guidance.
- Dorset clinicians were recently sent an email regarding On-Call Extra blood glucose test strips, stating that the formulary had been updated to make the On-Call mobile meter and related diabetes test strips first line for all adults and paediatrics with Type 2 diabetes. This is **not** the case: On-Call extra remains one of 13 meter/test strip combinations available on the Dorset formulary for management of **Type 2** diabetes. All items on the Dorset formulary are recommended by NHS England and clinicians are asked to select the most appropriate of these for the care of their patients.
- **Reminder:** 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.

### Learning

- For [World Menopause Day 2024](#), the British Menopause Society has launched an education platform to improve evidence-based training for Healthcare Professionals. The BMS [Management of the Menopause Certificate](#) is a complete online education package that enables healthcare professionals to develop the confidence needed to deal with 95% of patients who walk through their door, leaving only the 5% of complex cases to be referred for specialist menopause care.
- [World antibiotic awareness week](#) (WAAW) runs from 18 to 24 November 2024. Six [FREE webinars](#) are available across the week, developed by NHS England Antimicrobial resistance team.

### 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.