

Valproate: updated safety materials

Updated safety and educational materials are now available to support the implementation of the regulatory measures announced in the November 2023 National Patient Safety Alert and the September 2024 Drug Safety Update. Access these new materials on the [MHRA Drug Safety Update page online](#). Also available are [infographics to clarify which situations required a review by two specialists](#).

Drug shortages / supply issues

- **Shortage of NovoRapid PumpCart cartridges – limited supply until 2027.** For new patient initiations and where NovoRapid PumpCart cartridges are unavailable for existing patients, clinicians should consider prescribing NovoRapid vials (insulin aspart 100units/ml) which are compatible with the Mylife YpsoPump reservoirs. Dorset hospital diabetes teams are contacting patients directly to inform them of the change and next steps including training tools. GP practices will be expected to change existing prescriptions to NovoRapid 10ml vials. For all other queries patients can contact their diabetes specialist nurse. Further information is available on the [SPS medicine supply tool](#).
- **Levemir FlexPens and Levemir PenFills will be discontinued in December 2026.** Do not initiate new patients on any Levemir product. Wait for national clinical guidance for existing Levemir patients. Further information is available on the [SPS medicine supply tool](#).
- Shortage of **modified release galantamine capsules** is expected until 25th July 2025. If patients are unable to switch an alternative licensed drug the [SPS advice](#) is supported locally: "Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, prescribers should consider maintaining the same treatment by prescribing galantamine 20mg/5ml oral solution sugar free which is able to support the market during this time, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the change in dosing schedule."
- In response to significant disruption to the supply of venlafaxine 37.5mg modified-release tablets, a [serious shortage protocol](#) has been issued that allows for venlafaxine 37.5mg modified-release capsules to be provided in place of the modified release tablets.

Only Order What You Need!

Now in its second year, Dorset's hugely successful **Only Order What You Need** campaign is back, running via GP practices and Community Pharmacies (June 16th – August 15th). Last year's campaign helped save £450,000! Use the information and resources on the GP sharepoint page (live on [Repeat prescriptions? Only order what you need - Campaign materials and text to share](#)), to spread awareness of the campaign.

To find out more www.nhsdorset.nhs.uk/yourmeds or get in touch at communication@nhsdorset.nhs.uk.

Updated information on Tirzepatide commissioning

Please direct patients to the [NHS Dorset website](#) on the progress on community weight management service commissioning. The clear message is to not contact your GP right now. The procurement of a service will commence this summer with the intention of commencement later in the year.

Polypharmacy Action learning Sets – Registration now open

Polypharmacy Action learning sets are being run by Health Innovation Wessex on 17th September, 1st and 22nd October 2025 9.30am-12noon. [Register online](#). Please remember to record attendance at the Polypharmacy ALS, as part of the prescribing quality scheme 25/26, using the [Microsoft teams form](#). For further information on training and resources please visit the [NHS Dorset website](#).

Chronic Kidney Disease

In light of the revised Technology Appraisal guidance (TA1075) on Dapagliflozin for treating chronic kidney disease a number of PCNs have approached the ICB for a position statement on pro-active case finding approach to SGLT2 use. As a system the agreed active case finding phased approach is described in our Dorset Plan [here](#).

When approached by external companies to implement a proactive approach, the cohort supported by the ICB for review is available in the S1 searches: SystmOne> Dorset SystmOne GPs> NICE proactive implementation> SGLT2 in CKD

Biosimilar Uptake policy

A policy to underpin the uptake of biosimilar medicines has been published on the [Dorset Formulary](#). Most biologic and biosimilar medicines are prescribed in secondary care, however, practices may have a record on their system as to what biologics a patient is receiving. It is expected that patients will shift to a biosimilar option from the originator brand within six months of the biosimilars becoming available and therefore practices may see different brand names being used.

Biosimilar medicines which may be used in primary care include some insulins such as Trurapi®, Semglee®.

Quick bites

- The Dorset Formulary is available at: www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk.
- We recently sent emails to all GP practices advising about the availability of the Community Pharmacy Contraception Service. The reports on SystmOne created to help practices identify eligible patients were recently moved. Apologies for any practices who have been unable to locate them. They are now located at: Dorset SystmOne GPs > Medicines Optimisation > Womens Health.
- BMJ Clinical Practice information on [managing ADHD medication side effects](#)
- Recently published guidance describing treatments for [thrush](#) and [iron deficiency](#) that can be supplied from community pharmacies to pregnant people.
- UKHSA update on [changes to the routine childhood immunization schedule](#) from July 1st 2025. There are several changes, including a new hexavalent vaccine at 18months of age, and stopping the Hib/Mec C vaccine at age one. Refer to the [complete childhood vaccination schedule](#) for more information.

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 asksps.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.