

RSV vaccine: be alert to a small risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome in older adults

There is a small increase in the risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination with Abrysvo® or Arexvy® (RSV vaccines) in adults aged 60 years and older. Healthcare professionals should advise all recipients of these vaccines that they should be alert to signs and symptoms of Guillain-Barré syndrome and, if they occur, to seek immediate medical attention as it requires urgent treatment in hospital. These vaccines are 'black triangle' (▼) and therefore are subject to additional monitoring. Please report known or suspected adverse reactions to these vaccinations via the [Yellow Card Scheme](#). Also refer to the [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#).

Drug shortages / supply issues

- Miconazole 20mg/g oromucosal gel sugar free (15g and 80g packs) are unavailable until July 2026. Consider prescribing nystatin 100,000units/ml oral suspension, where appropriate. For more severe infections, consider fluconazole capsules/oral suspension. Where these options are not appropriate, seek specialist advice. It is worth noting that the Nystan® brand of nystatin suspension has recently been discontinued, so if you choose to prescribe nystatin suspension as an alternative to miconazole, please ensure it is prescribed generically. For additional information and guidance about the miconazole oromucosal gel shortage, please refer to the [SPS drug supply tool](#).
- An updated [medicine supply notification](#) for Levemir® (insulin detemir) is now published. Both the 3ml pens and 3ml cartridges are being discontinued, and stock is expected to be depleted by the end of 2026. [Clinical guidance](#) is available to support switching to an alternative product. Current supply positions of alternatives and changes to their availability are published on the [SPS drug supply tool](#). Additional local guidance is expected in October 2025.

Referral criteria for the Dorset HealthCare Specialist Medicines Management Service

From 1st October 2025, due to a change in the commissioning of the Dorset HealthCare Specialist Medicines Management Service, domiciliary referrals from PCNs and General Practice must meet the following criteria:

All patients referred into the service must need a medicine taking assessment **AND be housebound with moderate or severe frailty** who have risk factors such as:

- 8+ medicines or 12 or more doses per day
- Multimorbidity (2 or more long term conditions that affect quality of life, life expectancy)
- Sensory impairment (hearing, visual, memory)
- Literacy or communication difficulties
- Frequent hospital admissions
- Significant changes in medicines regime
- Non-adherence is suspected or known causing deterioration in condition

Referrals into the service will remain either by SystmOne or SPOA. For any enquires please email: dhc.communitymedicines.optimisationteam@nhs.net or telephone: 01202 305016

Freestyle Libre and Dexcom

FreeStyle Libre 2 (14-day) sensors were discontinued in August 2025. Patients should be switched to the new 15-day **FreeStyle Libre 2 Plus** sensor. The new sensors are identical except the extra day of usage. There are no changes to the app, reader, or Libreview.

Dexcom One sensors are also being discontinued. Patients using Dexcom One sensors should be switched to **Dexcom One+** sensors. Please note that separate Dexcom One Transmitters are no longer required with the new Dexcom One+ sensors and should be removed from patients' current medication. To use the new sensor, users must download the new Dexcom One+ App or obtain a new reader.

Cyanocobalamin 1mg tablets (Orobalin®)

Orobalin® is the only pharmaceutical preparation of Cyanocobalamin 1mg that is licensed by the MHRA, ensuring regulated efficacy and safety. Based on recent prescribing data a large proportion of cyanocobalamin tablets are still prescribed generically in primary care, meaning the patient is likely to be receiving an unlicensed product, despite the availability of a licensed one.

In line with [MHRA guidance](#), “An unlicensed product should not be used where a product available and licensed within the UK could be used to meet the patient's special need”, therefore we are encouraging GP practices in Dorset to move patients currently prescribed cyanocobalamin 1mg tablets generically, to Orobalin 1mg tablets. The reimbursement price of the unlicensed product and the branded Orobalin® product is the same, so there is no saving from prescribing generically in this case. The [Dorset formulary](#) also reflects the need to prescribe by brand.

Quick bites

- The Dorset Formulary is available at: www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk.
- The administration instructions for oral semaglutide (Rybelsus®) have been updated. Oral semaglutide has a low bioavailability and variable absorption. Refer to the manufacturer's flyer for more information.
- 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.
- [CQC Controlled drugs annual update report for 2024](#) – CQC highlight issues of concern including impending changes to regional and national oversight function, access in care homes for end of life care, the importance of working within your scope of practice and addressing fraudulent activity by health and care professionals.
- We have been asked to share details of an upcoming event hosted by Dorset HealthCare – the event is a Mental Health Prescribing Conference, to be held on Wednesday 5th November 2025, 9.30am to 4pm. The event is intended for a non-medical prescriber audience, and costs £65. The flyer and application form have been shared with this newsletter. Please note, all enquiries about the event should be directed to Dorset HealthCare via dhc.prescribingadministration@nhs.net.
- The MHRA has warned that a children's [magnesium supplement](#) contains undeclared [melatonin](#), a prescription-only medicine in the UK. The alert applies to Nutrition Ignition Kids Magnesium Glycinate Gummies. Parents and caregivers have been urged to stop using the product immediately. The gummies, marketed and sold online as food supplements, should have been regulated as medicines and held a UK licence to be legally sold, [the MHRA said](#). The presence of melatonin is not listed on the packaging, the MHRA noted.
- The NHS [Better Health](#) page has lots of information for patients on making healthy changes such as losing weight, quitting smoking, getting active and drinking less. There are links to free apps, personalisable plans and organisations who can support patients.
- The Dorset Formulary and SystmOne have been updated to reflect the updated [NHSE commissioning recommendations](#) for blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets. Patients already using blood glucose or ketone meters that are not on the recommended list of products, should be switched to a better value alternative meter within 10 months, following a discussion with their healthcare professional.

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.