



**Specialist
Pharmacy
Service**

NHS

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest February 2023

**Resources to support healthcare
professionals working in all areas
of the health system**

*** Please share with the wider team ***

**The first stop
for professional
medicines advice**

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HOT TOPICS

Antidepressant switching: guidance to help decision making surrounding antidepressant switching.

Choosing between available adalimumab products: Understand the adalimumab products that are available on contract to the NHS. Choose between them appropriately for organisations or individuals.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Managing medical gases and oxygen during periods of high demand:

A series of articles providing answers to common questions covering: pharmacy responsibilities, medical gas committees, medical gas pipeline systems, gas delivery systems, and governance

Self-administration of medicines:

A series of best practice guidance to help support organisations in implementing self-administration of medicines initiatives for patients while in hospital

Medicine administration by registered and non-registered staff: practical guidance describing governance frameworks supporting the administration of medicines by registered and non-registered staff.

Legal mechanisms to supply and administer medicines to individuals: practical guidance describing the legal mechanisms under which medicines can be supplied/administered to patients.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

**** Coming soon ****: SPS resources relating to Covid-19 vaccines will be updated to support the upcoming Spring campaign.

[Switching between imatinib preparations](#) - Support for decision making when considering switching imatinib preparations including a locally adaptable patient information leaflet.

[Medication Safety Evidence Summaries: February 2023](#) - an observatory of the latest medicines safety information including national patient safety alerts, MHRA Drug Safety updates and more.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

[Using folic acid with methotrexate in rheumatoid arthritis](#): an article summarising the evidence and guidance surrounding the use of folic acid to prevent side effects in patients taking methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis.

[Using contraception with enzyme-inducing medicines](#): clinical considerations and advice on using contraception with concomitant enzyme inducing medicines.

[Using insulins during breastfeeding](#): guidance on continuing or initiating insulins in breastfeeding mothers.

[Using tricyclic antidepressants during breastfeeding](#): guidance on using tricyclic antidepressants in breastfeeding mothers.

GOVERNANCE & REGULATORY

[Accessing the CAR-T training passport for clinical pharmacists:](#) Members of the Pan UK Pharmacy Working Group for ATMPs have collaborated with UK BMT (Bone Marrow Transplant) pharmacists to produce a CAR-T training passport

[Pharmacy Manual Checklist for Clinical Trials for ATIMPs:](#) guidance to aid optimal site implementation of ATIMP Clinical Trials.

[Assurance of aseptic preparation of medicines](#) - insight and links to updated guidance from NHSE to reflect governance and visibility of the assurance and audit of unlicensed aseptic preparation.

WEBINARS & EVENTS

Upcoming events:

Mini Conference – Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) – unlocking the potential Webinar. Tues 7 March 14.00-16.00. [Register here](#)

Medication Safety Across The System a ‘challenge for all’ – Opioid Safety Webinar. Wed 29 March 12.30-14.00. [Register here](#)

Chronic liver disease in primary care: an on the couch conversation. Thurs 27 April 13.00-14.00. [Register here](#)

PGD Learning events:

New to PGDs? Join us on Tues 18 April 12.30-14.30 [Register here](#)

If you just need to know what's changed or changing, join us on Wed 10 May 13.00-14.00 [Register here](#)

If you attend one of these sessions and still have a PGD question, the panel will answer them on Wed 17 May 13.00-14.00 [Register here](#)

RECOMMENDED IN PRIMARY CARE

[Vaccines and immunisations](#): suggested resources to help find information to answer questions on vaccines and immunisation

[Travel Health](#): useful resources to use when answering questions about travel health.

[Mental Health](#): useful resources to use when answering questions about medicines used in mental health.

PLANNING

[New Medicines News](#) - Highlights recent new product launches and regulatory changes.

[New Product Evaluations](#) - Lists new product evaluations freely available to NHS staff.

[Medicines Supply Tool](#) - Information provided by DHSC and NHSE Medicines Supply Teams for medication shortages (you must be registered and signed into our website to access this resource).

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Remdesivir: All remaining stock has been allocated. Awaiting comms on future supply intentions. The first phase of reimbursement payments have been made by DHSC via ICBs. If stock is required, please speak to your RPPS.

IVIg: Due to a further decrease in available volumes of some IVIg products we have reverted to formal allocations. Trusts have been informed of allocations for February and March. Please can Trusts ensure they purchase their allocations.

Alteplase: Allocations for March have been sent out to Trusts. The supply position remains constrained and cannot support any further increase in use.

Ceftazidime: There are supply issues with a number of suppliers for both 1g and 2 g strengths. To support stockpile product has been released and will be allocated to Trusts as needed. Stock is FOC and is ordered via OPS

SUPPLY

Epidural Bags: There is a supply issue with a range of epidural bags containing fentanyl and levobupivacaine or bupivacaine. A [National Patient Safety Alert](#) has been issued to guide Trusts on the management of this issue. A summary of the latest supply position has been sent to procurement leads.

Dalteparin: A tier 3 medicine supply notification for dalteparin (Fragmin[®]) 10,000units/4mL solution for injection ampoules has been issued.

Idacio[®]: There is a supply constraint on this product. There is stock for current patients, however new patients need to be started on an alternative during this time.

Access to the SPS Medicines Advice Service

A single, national telephone number and email for the SPS Medicines Advice Service for primary care-based healthcare professionals, has now been launched.

Phone: 0300 770 8564

Email: asksps.nhs@sps.direct

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