

Medicines Management Newsletter

March 2022

Welcome to the March edition of the Medicines Management Newsletter, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well during this time. This newsletter is distributed to all practices and pharmacies in the Barnsley area and aims to keep you informed of the latest medicine updates, drug alerts/recalls and the work currently being completed in GP Practices by the Medicines Management Team.

ScriptSwitch new features coming soon

We are aware that Optum have contacted practices regarding the new safety alert function on ScriptSwitch. Please note that further information will be shared with practices before this is rolled out locally.

If you have any queries in the meantime, or if you have any issues where ScriptSwitch is currently not working for any clinicians, please do not hesitate to contact Gemma Crew (gemma.crew@nhs.net)

Influenza Immunisation Programme 2021-22 – Thank You

Thank you to GP practice and community pharmacy colleagues for the excellent work you have undertaken in delivering the vaccination programme. The uptake in Barnsley has been consistently better than the national position across all the cohorts which reflects the efforts of all involved in the delivery.

The National Director of Public Health Commissioning and Operations, Deborah Tomalin, has issued a thank you message on behalf of NHS England (extract below):

“I wanted to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in delivering this year’s flu vaccination programme.

Delivering the biggest flu programme ever is no mean feat in any circumstances, but alongside delivery of a world beating Covid-19 vaccination programme - and all the other pressures of the job - this is particularly impressive and testament to your hard work and dedication.

We have seen record numbers of these vital jabs given, in particular to people over 65s, which is an amazing achievement - thanks to our amazing primary care flu services and staff in Trusts who have delivered the flu jab to patients and pregnant women.

Flu is an unpredictable virus that can kill, and the flu vaccination is the best defence against it, so a big thank you to all who have helped protect so many.”

Influenza Immunisation Programme 2022-23 – Reimbursable Vaccines and Eligible Cohorts

On 2nd March 2022, NHS England published guidance outlining the reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts for 2022-23 Flu Vaccination Programme. [Full guidance can be accessed here.](#)

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the 50-64 years cohort and secondary school aged children **will not be eligible for vaccination in the 2022-23 flu vaccination programme.**

The reimbursed vaccine types for the eligible cohorts are shown below. QIVr (Sanofi Supemtek®) is now an option for the 65 and over cohort as well as the at-risk adults:

Aged 65 and over	At-risk adults, including pregnant women, aged 18 to 64 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• aQIV (Fluad® Tetra - Seqirus) or QIVr (Supemtek® - Sanofi)• <i>QIVc only where aQIV or QIVr are unavailable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• QIVc (Flucelvax® Tetra - Seqirus) or QIVr (Supemtek® - Sanofi)• <i>QIVe only where QIVc or QIVr are unavailable</i>

Practices are asked to review the guidance and amend any orders they have already placed where needed, bearing in mind in particular:

- JCVI supports a preference for QIVc or QIVr over QIVe for the at-risk adults aged 18 to 64 years. NHSEI advises that QIVc and QIVr should be prioritised for this group.
- the 50-64 years cohort no longer being eligible for vaccination.
- the recommendation in the guidance to **place orders with more than one supplier** to ensure sufficient stock is received.
- it is **not** anticipated that the Department of Health and Social Care will procure central stock during the 2022-23 season. Providers should order sufficient quantities of vaccine for their eligible population to provide coverage at least equal to and ideally exceeding 2021/22 uptake levels.

Sanofi have informed us that existing orders for their QIVe can be cancelled or switched to QIVr (Supemtek®) until 12th April 2022.

To provide assurance that sufficient stock of the appropriate vaccine types for each of the eligible cohorts have been ordered, GP practices have been requested to submit details of vaccine orders to NHS SIT on the link below before 31st March 2022.

[2022/23 Y&H Flu Programme - Vaccine Ordering Assurance \(office.com\)](#)

Ordering & Supply of Prescriptions over the Easter Period (15th - 18th April)

In recent years, NHS 111 have said that one of the most common reasons patients contact the 24-hour service at the weekend and Bank Holidays is to ask how to obtain additional supplies of their repeat prescription medicines.

Practices and pharmacies are encouraged to advise and/or support patients in ordering their repeat prescriptions in advance if their normal supply is due to coincide with the Easter bank holiday period.

Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Prescribing Guidelines

The Possible Alternatives to Unlicensed Specials guidance has been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/specials-unlicensed-specials/22081>

The Calcium and Vitamin D, and Vitamin D Summary of Formulary Choices in Adults over 18 years has been updated:

https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Ca_plus_VitD_or_VitD_Formulary_Choices.pdf

The Management of Osteoporosis and Fragility Fracture Risk Barnsley Guideline has been updated:

https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Fracture_prevention_and_Osteoporosis_guideline.pdf

Osteoporosis Drug Holiday Guidelines for GPs have been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Osteoporosis%20drug%20holiday%20guidelines.pdf>

Shared Care Guidelines

The NEW Desmospray® (Desmopressin Nasal Spray) for Diabetes Insipidus Amber-G Guideline is available at:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/shared-care-guidelines/Desmospray%20Amber%20G%20Shared%20Care%20Guideline.pdf>

The NEW Amber Shared Care Guideline for Dantrolene (for the treatment of chronic severe spasticity of voluntary skeletal muscle in adults) is available at:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/shared-care-guidelines/Dantrolene%20Amber%20Shared%20Care%20Guideline.pdf>

Formulary Changes (Drugs with a provisional classification are not currently included on the Barnsley formulary)

- **Glucagon (Ogluo®)**, for the treatment of severe hypoglycaemia in adults, adolescents, and children aged ≥2 years with diabetes mellitus, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional grey classification**. It is for administration by subcutaneous injection ONLY.
- **Budesonide / Formoterol / Glycopyrronium (Trixeo Aerosphere® Metered Dose Inhaler)**, for maintenance treatment in adult patients with moderate to severe COPD who are not adequately treated by a combination of an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting beta2-agonist or combination of a long-acting beta2-agonist and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist, has been assigned a **formulary green classification**. This is a triple inhaler [containing ICS/LABA/LAMA] and should therefore not be used concurrently with LABA/LAMA, LABA/ICS or LAMA inhalers.

Patient Group Directions Update

Yorkshire and the Humber Screening and Immunisation Team emailed out the following updated PGDs to Practice Managers on 24.02.2022:

- Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine: MMRVaxPro®, Priorix® (valid from 01.03.2022)
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (13-valent, adsorbed): Prevenar® 13 (valid from 01.03.2022)
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (13-valent, adsorbed) for Risk Groups: Prevenar® 13 (valid from 01.03.2022)
- Typhoid Vi Polysaccharide Vaccine: TYPHIM Vi® (valid from 01.03.2022)
- Combined Hepatitis A Virus (Inactivated) and Typhoid Polysaccharide Vaccine: ViATIM® (valid from 01.03.2022)

Practice Managers are asked to share the PGDs with all practitioners planning to work under them and to ensure individual practitioner authorisation.

The PGDs are available on the NHSE website along with all other current PGDs:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/north-east-yorkshire/our-work/information-for-professionals/pgds/>

If Practice Managers do not receive emails about updated PGDs from the Screening and Immunisation Team please email: joanne.howlett2@nhs.net (Medicines Management Pharmacist) and this can be arranged.

MHRA Drug Safety Update

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The January 2022 MHRA Drug Safety Update can be accessed at the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1047685/Jan-2022-DSU-PDF.pdf

There are no alerts relating to primary care. The COVID-19 vaccines and medicines: updates for January 2022, can be accessed through the above link.

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) available in all Pharmacies

It is requested that Practices should continue to ask all patients – regardless of whether they are on a repeat medication or not - if they wish to use EPS for their prescriptions and if so, which pharmacy they wish to nominate. Searches are available on the practice system to identify patients, please speak to the Medicines Management Technician in your practice if you require further details.

Practices are able to add and change nominations on a patient's record at a patient's request.

The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) reduces the paper administration associated with prescribing and dispensing processes by enabling prescriptions to be generated, transmitted and received electronically.

It is important to notify patients that they may still need to wait for their prescription dispensing once they present at their nominated pharmacy to collect it. We also request that practices advise patients to order their repeat prescription at least 7 days before they are due to run out of medication. This allows processing time for both the practice and pharmacy.

Support to Community Pharmacies

As part of the CCG's continued effort to support community pharmacies, brief check-in calls will continue to be made to see how community pharmacists and their teams are managing through these challenging times. The calls are an opportunity for community pharmacies to raise any issues or concerns they may have.

Pharmacies are advised to flag any significant issues or concerns as soon as possible and do not need to wait for the next call.

Discharge Medication Service

If a pharmacy needs to query any discrepancies as part of the Discharge Medication Service, could you please Cc the respective clinical pharmacist within the GP practice.

Disruptions to communication methods (phone lines/email)

Should any community pharmacies experience disruption to their lines of communication can they please bring these to our attention, wherever possible.

The team can be contacted by email:

- Shoaib Ashfaq, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – s.ashfaq@nhs.net
- Mir Khan, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – mir.khan1@nhs.net
- Shauna Kemp, Primary Care Network Technician – shauna.kemp@nhs.net

If you have any queries regarding medication or require support in identifying patients affected by any of the issues discussed in this newsletter, please contact the Medicines Management Pharmacist and/or Technician working in your practice.

Alternatively contact the Medicines Management Team on 01226 433669 or 433798. We would welcome any feedback you have to give on this newsletter, as well as any suggestions for future articles.

Please send ideas and comments to Claire Taylor, MMT Administration Officer on email address claire.taylor18@nhs.net

Many Thanks