

## Medicines Optimisation Update Newsletter – [August 2022 Issue 37]

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## Guidance for Multicompartmental Aids MCAs/Dosette Boxes

Following the changes to the provision of MCAs/dosette boxes from community pharmacies, the attached interim comms clarifies the Kent and Medway position. We hope this will help support any queries you may have. This interim comms will be shared widely across the Kent and Medway system, please circulate within your practices. We are working with the LPC on further communication for the public.

If you have any further questions, please email the medicines optimisation team.

<https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/media/1482/issue-37-addendum-interim-guidance-for-multicompartmental-aids.pdf>

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## Shortages Summary August 2022

Please find the medicines shortages update (16<sup>th</sup> August 2022) embedded below. Practices are encouraged to register for access to the SPS website <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/> and access the full medicines supply tool directly in real time.

<https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/newsletters-alerts/supply-shortages-alerts-kent-medway/>

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## National Patient Safety Alert: Mexiletine

**National Patient Safety Alert: Class 1 Medicines Recall Notification: Recall of Mexiletine hydrochloride 50mg, 100mg and 200 mg Hard Capsules, Clinigen Healthcare Ltd, due to a potential for underdosing and/or overdosing, NatPSA/2022/007/MHRA**

Clinigen Healthcare Ltd is initiating a recall of three batches of Mexiletine hydrochloride hard capsules due to a potential risk of underdose or overdose, which could have consequences for the safety of patients. Please see the national patient safety alert [\(here\)](#) .

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## MHRA Drug Safety Update

Please find the MHRA Drug Safety Update July 2022 embedded below, with a special look at Topiramate.

<https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/media/1477/issue-34-mhra-drug-safety-update-july-2022.pdf>

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## **MHRA Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Novo Nordisk Limited, NovoRapid® FlexTouch® 100 units/ml, Saxenda® FlexTouch® (liraglutide) 6mg/ml, EL(22)A/33**

There has been a Class 4 medicines defect information alert issued by MHRA which affects specific batches of NovoRapid FlexTouch prefilled pen device and batches of Saxenda FlexTouch prefilled pen device in the UK.

The defect results in a non-functioning device where it is not possible to set a dose because the dose selector will spin freely, as such, click sounds will not be heard. Since a dose cannot be selected, the patient cannot inject a dose. A very small number of pens are affected – the average number of affected products is 2-3 pens per million pens. Based on the critical need for the products, they are not being recalled.

### **Advice for healthcare professionals who prescribe these items**

This information relates to both NovoRapid and Saxenda FlexTouch pens. If the pen is faulty, it will not be possible to set a dose because the dose selector will spin freely, as such, click sounds will not be heard. Since a dose cannot be selected, the patient cannot inject a dose therefore the fault will be noticeable to the patient.

- If a patient returns a faulty pen from these batches to their pharmacy or other healthcare professional, Novo Nordisk request that the healthcare professional follows the usual safety and complaints process whereby they provide the patient with a replacement pen.
  - The healthcare professional should then contact Novo Nordisk Customer Care to report it and obtain a pre-paid jiffy bag in order to return the faulty pen to Novo Nordisk who will credit the healthcare professional via their Alliance Healthcare (wholesaler) account.

- Patients are advised to always carry a spare pen to avoid any doses being missed. The pens with the affected defect are not being recalled. Patients can continue to use pens from these batches if not affected by the defect.

### **Advice for patients**

Patients can continue to use pens from these batches; this is because only a small number of pens are affected by the defect. The defect means that some pens will not work. The defect results in a non-functioning device where it is not possible to set a dose because the dose selector will spin freely, as such, click sounds will not be heard. Since a dose cannot be selected, the patient cannot inject a dose.

If patients receive a defective pen, they should contact their healthcare professional to obtain a new supply. Patients are advised to always carry a spare pen to avoid any doses being missed.

- NovoRapid: If you miss a dose of this medicine, your blood sugar may become high. You should use a replacement pen to administer a dose as soon as possible. In the meantime, monitor your blood sugar levels more often than usual. Contact your healthcare professional if you have any concerns.
- Saxenda: If you miss a dose due to a defective pen you should obtain a replacement. If there is more than 12 hours until your next scheduled dose, then take it soon as possible. If there is less than 12 hours until your next usual dose, do not take the missed dose and resume your once-daily regimen with the next scheduled dose. An extra dose or increase in dose should not be taken to make up for the missed dose. Contact your healthcare professional if you have any concerns.

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### **Further Information**

For medical information and stock control queries please contact: Customer Care contact details +44 (0)800 023 2573 or [CustomerCare@novonordisk.com](mailto:CustomerCare@novonordisk.com)

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## CPD conference on Controlled Drugs: Ensuring the Safer Management

A CPD certified conference on [Controlled Drugs: Ensuring the Safer Management](#) is taking place **virtually** on **Friday 11th November 2022** and focuses on ensuring the Safer Management of Controlled Drugs: Diversion & Abuse, Prescribing and Use.

Chaired by **Wendy McAllister** *Vice Chair Association of Police Controlled Drugs Liaison Officers and Former Controlled Drugs Liaison Officer* Metropolitan Police Service, this CPD certified conference will provide you with practical advice and guidance on current national developments, and will include an update from **Dr Victoria Lea** *National Controlled Drugs Manager* Care Quality Commission on the [CQCs safer management of drugs report](#).

For the full programme content, learning outcomes and to book visit [www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/conferences-masterclasses/controlled-drugs-conference](http://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/conferences-masterclasses/controlled-drugs-conference)

## Important Product Supply Information: Shortec Oral Solution

The Medicines Optimisation Team have received confirmation from Qdem Pharmaceuticals that the following two products are to be discontinued in the UK. This is from the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 onwards.

Product	Generic Name	Pack Size	Pip Code	Product License No	Date of discontinuation (last availability)
Shortec liquid 1 mg/ml oral solution	Oxycodone IR Liquid 1mg/ml	250ml	403-8543	PL 40431/0013	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
Shortec concentrate 10 mg/ml oral solution	Oxycodone IR Liquid Concentrate 10mg/ml	120ml	403-8550	PL 40431/0014	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022

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## NICE News Bimonthly - August 2022

Please find embedded below NICE publications, including recently updated NICE clinical guidelines.

<https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/media/1467/recent-nice-publications-august-2022.pdf>

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## Cow's Milk Allergy Feed

A reminder to all our Practices that the Kent and Medway Guidelines on Prescribing Specialist Infant Milk below, are also available on our local formulary websites.

<https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/media/1337/km-guide-specialist-infant-formula-v8-3.pdf>

<https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/media/1336/2-km-quick-ref-specialist-infant-formula-2.pdf>

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## Tobacco Industry Lobbying

A recent bulletin from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), warns NHS organisations may be a target for lobbying by the tobacco industry.

*“Local authorities and NHS organisations **should not engage with any approaches from JUUL or Swedish Match** and ensure that they have guidelines in place to protect local policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.”*

The full article may be accessed [here](#).