

## Medicines Optimisation Update Newsletter – [April 2023 Issue 45]

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## Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Prepayment Certificate (PPC)

As of 1st April 2023, the Government launched the HRT Prepayment Certificate (PPC) to reduce prescription costs for women receiving Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT).

Patients who usually pay for their HRT prescriptions will be able to purchase an annual HRT PPC for the cost of two single prescription charges. The HRT PPC, valid for 12 months, can be used against any listed HRT prescription item(s) licensed for the treatment of menopause. A list of medicines covered under the HRT PPC can be found [here](#).

Prescribers will need to complete a separate prescription for items covered by the HRT PPC to allow patients to claim the exemption correctly. Please see the information from the LPC previously shared under “Pharmacy” in the [General practice update 7 March 2023](#) for further information (“DHSC announces rollout of HRT prescription prepayment certificate”).

**For more information please refer to [Guidance on the HRT PPC](#), this includes details for prescribers (chapter 5) and dispensers (chapter 6). In addition, you can also access [NICE menopause guidance](#) and [British Menopause Society guidance for clinicians](#).**

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## Chronic Pain Resources

In March 2023 Red Whale published two useful articles about chronic pain.

The first, '[Chronic pain: opiates and dependence-forming medications](#)' includes information on reducing the prescribing of opiate and other dependence-forming drugs in practice as well as some top tips.

The second '[Chronic pain: communication skills and self-management](#)' discusses changing the nature of pain consultations and includes some excellent examples for approaching patients living with chronic pain.

These resources are also likely to be useful to practices undertaking the dependence forming medicines project of the 2022-2024 Medicines Optimisation Scheme.

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## Non-Medical Prescribing and Controlled Drugs

The Medicines Optimisation Team are currently working closely with NHS England South East Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer in relation to non-medical prescribing, it has been highlighted that a number of Paramedics and Physiotherapists are prescribing prohibited items. Please see table for details.

Please ensure that non-medical prescribers are prescribing within their area of scope, and they are receiving regular clinical reviews of their practice.

Non-Medical Prescriber	Controlled Drug Prescribing
Nurse (IP)	Permitted to prescribe any Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 5 Controlled Drug ( <b>except diamorphine, dipipanone or cocaine for the treatment of addiction</b> ).
Pharmacist	Permitted to prescribe any Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 5 Controlled Drug ( <b>except diamorphine, dipipanone or cocaine for the treatment of addiction</b> ).
Physiotherapist	They can prescribe for the treatment of organic disease or injury provided that the Controlled Drug is prescribed to be administered by the specified method: <b><i>Diazepam, Dihydrocodeine, Lorazepam, Morphine, Oxycodone, Temazepam, by oral administration; Morphine for injectable administration. and Fentanyl for transdermal administration.</i></b>
Paramedic	No Controlled Drug prescribing permitted.

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## Reminder on Oral Hygiene Prescribing

### Toothpaste

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Fluoride toothpaste should only be prescribed by a G.P. under the recommendation of the Maxillofacial or Oncology team.

In any other circumstances the patient should be advised to speak to their local Pharmacist and purchase an alternative Fluoride toothpaste over the counter (OTC).

**All requests from an dentist (NHS or Private) should not be accepted or prescribed by the GP, it should be prescribed the dentist.**

### **Mouthwash/Rinse**

NHS England (NHSE) has listed these products as OTC recommendations for patients to purchase.

Please consider counselling patients on the long-term regular use of Chlorhexidine mouthwashes as they can stain the teeth brown.

### **Throat Sprays & Lozenges**

NHSE has listed these products as OTC recommendations for patients to purchase.

There is little evidence to suggest that treatments such as lozenges or throat sprays help to treat the cause of sore throat.

Patients should be advised to take simple painkillers and implement some self-care measures such as gargling with warm salty water instead.

For more information on NHSE OTC recommendations please see below:  
[otc-guidance-for-ccgs.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

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## **Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey**

**Give your view! Where would you like to find the antimicrobial prescribing guidance in future?**

Please fill out this short seven question [survey](#) to give your view on accessing the primary care antimicrobial prescribing guidance.

Your feedback will help shape the design of this guidance in future so please share with any colleagues that may also wish to share their opinion. The survey will remain open until the end of the month.

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## Genomics Webinar: Aminoglycosides Pharmacogenetic Testing

Please see the attached flyer for a webinar on the 26<sup>th</sup> April and the 10<sup>th</sup> May. This webinar is open to all healthcare professionals. Please note you would only need to attend one session.

[Aminoglycosides pharmacogenetic testing flyer \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](https://medwayswaleformulary.co.uk)

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## West Kent PCN Pharmacy Support Network Learning Session

*This session is open to all healthcare professionals within primary care in Kent and Medway*

This session will be on safe opioid prescribing and will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1-2pm. Dr Johanna Theron Chronic pain specialist will be our expert guest speaker at this event and will be delivering a fantastic session on opioid best practice.

The link to the session is here.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 342 729 661 945

Passcode: rUT28q

For any issues, please contact the West Kent MOT team (kmicb.wkmedman@nhs.net).

Thank you.  
West Kent Medicines Optimisation Team  
NHS Kent and Medway ICB

[issue-45-safe-opoid-prescribing-flyer.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](#)

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## Medicines Optimisation MHRA Drug Safety Update – March 2023

The latest MHRA Drug Safety Updates can be accessed at [Drug Safety Update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/drug-safety-update). This includes links to alerts, recalls and safety information and to the monthly Drug Safety Update PDF newsletter.

### The March 2023 Drug Safety Update includes:

[Pholcodine-containing cough and cold medicines: withdrawal from UK market as a precautionary measure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pholcodine-containing-cough-and-cold-medicines-withdrawal)

Pholcodine-containing cough and cold medicines are being withdrawn from the UK market as a precaution following a review which found that their benefits do not outweigh the increased risk of the very rare event of anaphylaxis to neuromuscular blocking agents (NMBAs) used in general anaesthesia.

There is also a MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall Notice ([here](#)).

ePACT2 data shows that there is a significant amount of prescribing across Kent and Medway.

Pholcodine-containing products should not be prescribed, dispensed, or sold, and pharmacies and dispensing doctors should quarantine stock for return to the manufacturer.

[Terlipressin: new recommendations to reduce risks of respiratory failure and septic shock in patients with type 1 hepatorenal syndrome - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/terlipressin-new-recommendations)

[COVID-19 vaccines and medicines: updates for March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-and-medicines-updates)

[Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in February 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/letters-and-medicine-recalls)

**Please follow the link in the titles above for more information and resources.**

**The MHRA Central Alerting System alerts can be accessed at <https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/Home.aspx>**

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## NICE News April 2023

Please find the NICE News for April 2023 attached.

[recent-nice-publications-april-2023.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](https://www.nice.org.uk/recent-nice-publications-april-2023.pdf)

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## Shortages Summary April 2023

Please find the medicines shortages update (up until 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023) attached.

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.

[supply-shortages-alert-april.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/supply-shortages-alert-april-2023.pdf)

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## MHRA - Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Sandoz Limited, Co-amoxiclav 125/31.25mg/5ml, 250/62.5mg/5ml powder for oral suspension, EL (23)A/14

Sandoz limited has informed the MHRA that the products mentioned in this notification are not sugar free despite the carton stating 'sugar free'. The 'sugar free' text was added to the carton in December 2008 in error.

**The full notification can be accessed here:**

[Class 4 Medicines Defect Information: Sandoz Limited, Co-amoxiclav 125/31.25mg/5ml, 250/62.5mg/5ml powder for oral suspension, EL \(23\)A/14 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/govuk/govuk-notification-class-4-medicines-defect-information-sandoz-limited-co-amoxiclav-125-31-25mg-5ml-250-62-5mg-5ml-powder-for-oral-suspension-el-23-a-14)

From: [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency)

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