

Medicines Optimisation Newsletter

[June 2023] (Issue No.47)



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Kent and Medway ICB Updates

Inclisiran (Leqvio®) update on QOF and funding

[NICE TA733](#) recommends Inclisiran (Leqvio®) as a treatment option for adults with primary hypercholesterolaemia (heterozygous familial and non-familial) or mixed dyslipidaemia as an adjunct to diet. Inclisiran (Leqvio®) can be prescribed across Kent and Medway ICB in both primary and secondary care as long as the patient meets the criteria outlined in the NICE TA733.

Inclisiran initiation and on-going management is recommended to be carried out ***predominantly within the primary care setting*** where most patients with Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) are currently managed.

Addition to QOF

Inclisiran (Leqvio®) is delivered as part of a lipid management pathway in support of improving CVD prevention in England which has been recognised as a priority reflected by the introduction of two new lipid management incentives into [QOF](#).

Inclisiran (Leqvio®) is an effective LDL-C lowering therapy that can help primary care practices achieve QOF cholesterol targets recommended by NICE as a treatment option for high-risk patients with suboptimal lipid management.

Patients eligible for Inclisiran (Leqvio®) treatment may be identified during annual QOF or other LTC reviews. Alternatively, they may be identified by running searches such as Ardens.

Funding and reimbursement

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In order to ensure that local finances are not a barrier to access, NHS England funds Inclisiran (Leqvio®) centrally from a national NHS budget.

Inclisiran (Leqvio®) is available in general practice as a personally administered item reimbursed via an FP10 prescription and is listed in the Drug Tariff at a Reimbursed Amount of £50 per injection (the £45 Nominal Charge plus £5). (Please note the reimbursement fee has reduced from £55 to £50 from the 1st of April 2023 with the introduction of the new QOF targets (23/24))

The GP practice must order Inclisiran (Leqvio®) directly from the AAH wholesaler in order to be eligible for this £50 reimbursement charge. Further details can be found [here](#). In this instance, if applicable, it would not be necessary for the patient in issue to pay for their prescription.

Links to Formulary Websites and Document Sharing Platforms

We would like to remind practices that there are currently 4 different formularies within Kent and Medway. For information on formulary status for medicines, please use the relevant formulary website. Drugs and guidelines can also be searched for using the search function using keywords.

West Kent: <https://www.formularywkccgmtw.co.uk/>

East Kent: <https://www.eastkentformulary.nhs.uk/>

Medway and Swale: <https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/>

DGS: <https://www.dgsdvhformulary.nhs.uk/>

Approved local guidance can also be found in the following areas:

West Kent: <https://www.formularywkccgmtw.co.uk/> Under Prescribing Guidelines section

DORIS (West Kent only) <https://wkccg.dorisinfo.co.uk/index.php?module=login&login=doris> (login required)

East Kent: <https://www.eastkentformulary.nhs.uk/> Within each therapeutic section listed under 'Local recommendations.'

Medway and Swale: <https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/> Under Guidance/Pathways section, listed under 'therapeutic sections guidelines.'

DGS: <https://www.dgsdvhformulary.nhs.uk/> Under Kent and Medway Guidance section

For any further support, please contact your local medicines optimisation team.

Prescribing in Pain Symposium

On the 15th of November 2023, the second annual Prescribing in Pain Symposium will be taking place with both in person and virtual attendance.

This one-day specialist event is for any clinician that assesses and manages pain. This includes non-medical prescribers, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, paramedics, physiotherapists, and aspirant non-medical prescribers.

To register online and for details of the programme, please use the following [link](#).

Opioids – Safer Prescribing and Preferred Cost-effective Brands. Information for General Practice

Please see the below link for information on the safer prescribing of opioids and the new preferred cost-effective brands.

[issue-47-opioid-cost-effective.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](https://www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk/issue-47-opioid-cost-effective.pdf)

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Free training for community pharmacists and practice base pharmacists

There are free, NHS funded training offers for community pharmacists and practice based pharmacists from Health Education England. Please see the link below:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/transforming-pharmacy-education-training/initial-education-training-pharmacists-reform-programme/pharmacy-integration-programme>

There is also a new Community Pharmacy Training Page on the HEE website outlining current NHS funded training offers for community pharmacy professionals.

Please visit and bookmark the Community Pharmacy Training Page for easy reference.

Further information about the free training:

The new, fully funded, flexible training for community pharmacists is now available to help expand your clinical skills and improve patient care.

Courses include:

- Independent Prescribing - training to support patients from diagnosis to prescribing, providing advice and follow-up, and preparing to provide clinical care.

Courses are offered by a range of universities and education providers.

Please note: This funded training is available to community pharmacists, including locums and pharmacists in primary care, secondary care and Health and Justice.

- Clinical Examination Skills – offering a step towards Independent Prescribing and an opportunity to gain new specialist skills to increase your NHS role or to expand and refresh your diagnostic and consultation skills if you're already an IP.

Training is tailored to your skills, experience, and individual learning requirements.

Complete the gateway module in approximately 1 hour online, followed by one of four specialist modules in cardiology, paediatrics, ENT, or dermatology.

Optional in-person, practical training sessions are also available.

National Updates

Medicine Supply Notification – Shortage of Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®) 300mg and 600mg tablets

MSN/2023/059

Date of issue: 14/06/2023

Please see the Tier 2 Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) link below.

[issue-47-msn-oxcarbazepine.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](#)

Medicine Supply Notification – Shortage of Glucagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen®) (Novo Nordisk Ltd)

MSN/2023/051

Date of issue: 18/05/2023

Please see the Tier 2 Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) link below. The MSN contains actions, alternatives, considerations, and background.

According to the SPS Medicines Supply Tool:

Status: Unavailable

Shortage start: 15/06/2023

Anticipated resupply date: 21/07/2023

[issue-47-msn-glucagon.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](#)

Medicine Supply Notification – Shortage of Tresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens (Novo Nordisk Ltd)

MSN/2023/053

Date of issue: 24/05/2023

Please see the Tier 2 Medicine Supply Notification (MSN) link below. The MSN contains actions, alternatives, considerations, and background.

According to the SPS Medicines Supply Tool:

Status: Unavailable

Shortage start: 01/08/2023.

Anticipated resupply date: 05/01/2024

[issue-47-msn-tresiba.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](#)

MHRA Drug Safety Update May 2023

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

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The May 2023 Drug Safety Update includes:

[Direct-acting oral anticoagulants \(DOACs\): paediatric formulations; reminder of dose adjustments in patients with renal impairment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Risk minimisation materials are available to support the safe use of new paediatric formulations of rivaroxaban (Xarelto) and dabigatran etexilate (Pradaxa®). ([here](#))

In addition, the MHRA ask healthcare professionals to consult the current advice to ensure that all patients with renal impairment receive an appropriate dose of DOAC medicines. Separate advice is given for dose adjustments in patients with renal impairment for paediatrics and for adults ([here](#)). A table is provided with recommendations for DOACs in adults with renal impairment.

[Febuxostat: updated advice for the treatment of patients with a history of major cardiovascular disease - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Caution is required if prescribing febuxostat in patients with pre-existing major cardiovascular disease, particularly in those with evidence of high urate crystal and tophi burden or those initiating urate-lowering therapy.

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- in patients with pre-existing major cardiovascular diseases, febuxostat therapy should be used cautiously, particularly in those with evidence of high urate crystal and tophi burden or those initiating urate-lowering therapy.
- following initiation of febuxostat, prescribers should titrate the febuxostat dose to minimise gout flares and inflammation.
- note that clinical guidelines for gout (see, for example, [NICE guideline 219 – Gout: diagnosis and management](#)) recommend that allopurinol should be offered as first-line treatment for people with gout who have major cardiovascular disease
- report suspected adverse drug reactions associated with febuxostat to the [Yellow Card scheme](#)

[Glucose solutions: recommendations to minimise the risks associated with the accidental use of glucose solutions instead of saline solutions in arterial lines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Letters and medicine recalls sent to healthcare professionals in April 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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>

Shortages Summary

Please find the medicines shortages update (up until 12th June 2023) link. 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-shortage-alert-issue-47-jun-23.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](#)

NICE News

Please find NICE News for June 2023 link:

[recent-nice-publications-june-2023.pdf \(medwayswaleformulary.co.uk\)](#)

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