



# Tablet Press

The prescribing newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacists  
NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG



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- **Recording hospital only ("Red") drugs on GP clinical systems**

Practices are reminded of methods by which they can record "red" drugs on their clinical systems, yet avoid the risk that they will be prescribed in error from primary care. It is important to do this so that all drug interactions are flagged and that the Summary Care Record gives a complete list of prescribed drugs.

Details of how to do this for SystmOne and EMIS web are now on Pathfinder <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3339349/guidance-on-recording-non-practice-medication-august-2015.pdf>

- **Prescribing feedback forms**

In addition to those for KGH, NGH and NHFT, prescribing feedback forms are now available for Woodlands and Three Shires.

<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/gp-concerns-feedback-forms/>

- **Choice of ranitidine product for children**

There has recently been some confusion about the choice of ranitidine product for children. Sometimes this has led to the ranitidine 5mg/5ml unlicensed "special" being prescribed. However, the preferred product (from discussions with pharmacists at specialist tertiary centres i.e. Great Ormond Street Hospital, Alder Hey and University Hospitals Leicester) is the 75mg/5ml sugar-free syrup in line with current practice in paediatrics.

- **Influenza vaccine for children**

All flu vaccines for children (both live and inactivated) are purchased centrally by Public Health England (PHE). In 2015/16 this will be for:

- ✓ All children aged 2, 3 and 4yrs, and of school years 1 & 2 and
- ✓ All children in clinical risk groups aged 6 months to 18 years

PHE will supply Fluenz Tetra® for those who can receive it and inactivated flu vaccine for those children for whom Fluenz Tetra® is contraindicated. In those children, the quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine (Fluarix™ Tetra®) is authorised for children aged from 3 years and is preferred because of the additional protection offered. Children aged from 6 months to < 3 years should be given inactivated flu vaccine (Split Virion) BP®. Flu vaccines for children are ordered through the ImmForm website as for other centrally purchased vaccines ([www.immform.dh.gov.uk](http://www.immform.dh.gov.uk)).

**FP34 claims should not be made for any vaccines obtained via ImmForm.**

- **PGDs for the National Immunisation Programme**

NHS England (NHSE) is responsible for producing the PGDs to support the national immunisation programme. They have now sent the PGDs for Herpes zoster (shingles) (Zostavax) vaccine and Meningococcal group B vaccine (Bexsero). These have been uploaded to Pathfinder

<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/patient-group-directions/> .

We have been informed by NHSE that both the influenza PGDs will be available within the next two weeks. If you have enquiries concerning these PGDs, please contact Cath Fenton [cath.fenton@nhs.net](mailto:cath.fenton@nhs.net) at NHSE.

- **Systematic review finds increased mortality with digoxin**

A meta-analysis of 19 studies in more than 300,000 people with atrial fibrillation or congestive heart failure found that taking digoxin was associated with a statistically significant increase in the relative risk of all-cause mortality compared with people who were not taking digoxin. This was particularly the case for people who had atrial fibrillation. The study reinforces previous evidence suggesting an association between digoxin and increased mortality. However, there are some limitations to this study; only 1 randomised controlled trial was included. The findings are consistent with NICE guidance on atrial fibrillation and chronic heart failure, neither of which recommends digoxin as a first-line treatment.

[Systematic review finds increased mortality with digoxin](#)

- **The Epanutin "debacle"**

Some of you may recall that in 2012 Pfizer sold the marketing and distribution rights for Epanutin capsules to Flynn Pharma and that subsequently the price increased 24-fold. This increased Northamptonshire's annual spend on Epanutin from £20K to £480K and cost the NHS nationally an extra £40-50million per year.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August the Competition and Markets Authority released their provisional view that Pfizer and Flynn Pharma each abused a dominant position by charging excessive and unfair prices in the UK for Epanutin capsules in breach of UK and EU competition law. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cma-issues-statement-of-objections-to-pfizer-and-flynn-pharma-in-anti-epilepsy-drug-investigation>

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene> and on the Nene CCG and Corby CCG websites

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