



# Tablet Press



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

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- **Valproate and of risk of abnormal pregnancy outcomes: new communication materials**

The MHRA have issued a new toolkit on this topic [www.gov.uk/government/publications/toolkit-on-the-risks-of-valproate-medicines-in-female-patients](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/toolkit-on-the-risks-of-valproate-medicines-in-female-patients). The toolkit aims to support the dissemination of information about the MHRA strengthened warnings on the risks of valproate in pregnancy to females of child-bearing age. In addition to advice for patients and specialists there is also bespoke advice for GPs and pharmacists.

- **Shingles and flu vaccines in people taking immunosuppressive treatments including cancer therapies**

Trent Medicines Information Service has produced a bulletin on the shingles and flu vaccines in people taking immunosuppressive treatments including cancer therapies. This bulletin includes details of patients who should avoid or defer shingles vaccine due to immunosuppression or cancer therapies

<http://www.midlandsmedicines.nhs.uk/filestore/ShinglesFluVaccineinImmunosuppnv2Jan16.pdf>

- **Unidentified Practice Nurse prescription forms**

The NHSBSA have sent out a letter to non-medical prescribers (NMPs) who are issuing prescriptions from GP practices which they are not registered to. These NMPs should ensure that they register the details of any practices from which they issue prescriptions by the 1st April, 2016 (this is a legal requirement). To do this the NMP needs to complete Approval to Practice form <http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/policy/> **appendix 2** and send this to [sue.barron@neneccg.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.barron@neneccg.nhs.uk). This form will be signed off and sent to the NHSBSA who will enter them on their database. The process usually takes less than 5 working days.

- **£0.00 price on clinical systems**

If a drug has a price of £0.00 on a GP clinical system it is often an indication that there is no list price, and therefore it is likely to be an expensive unlicensed "special". Only select a £0.00 cost drug if no other alternative is available and / or check with your Prescribing Adviser.

- **Generics with a manufacturers name**

It has been identified that some of the generics listed on clinical systems contain a manufacturers name in brackets e.g. (Teva). Selecting a drug that has a brand in brackets can cost a lot more than the drug tariff listed price due to different generics having different prices. The PPD use intelligent automatic scanning software to process prescription payments, the scanner reads what is on the prescription and cross references it with a drug data base. Selecting a line with a manufacturing brand in brackets causes the software to charge at the list price instead of the tariff price. To ensure correct drug tariff reimbursement please do not select a generic with a manufacturers name in brackets.

- **Meningitis B vaccination**

Following recent media coverage, GP practices have had enquiries regarding vaccination against meningitis B for children outside the groups in the national immunisation schedule. NHS England sent a letter to all GP practices on 23<sup>rd</sup> February which clarifies the current national advice. Parents seeking the vaccine privately should be made aware that they will be liable for the full costs of the vaccine and any additional administration charges that the private provider may apply. We understand that GSK has supply constraints on the Bexsero vaccine for the private market. Practices must not use centrally-procured stock for the national programme to vaccinate private patients or any patients outside the eligible cohort (other than those at high risk as defined in the green book).

The letter can be found on Pathfinder at

<http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3419380/men-b-letter-to-gps-230216.pdf>

- **Genuair devices**

A local respiratory nurse specialist has had a few defective Genuair devices brought to her attention. The CCG has not had any other reports but we are keen to know of them if they have occurred. Community pharmacists can call the AstraZeneca Medical Information team direct on 0800 783 0033 to discuss any potential Product Quality Complaints with any medication or device. Alternatively they can e-mail [Medical.InformationUK@astrazeneca.com](mailto:Medical.InformationUK@astrazeneca.com)

- **Prior Approvals from 1<sup>st</sup> April**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 **all** prior approvals for double red drugs should be submitted only via the secure email [priorapproval.northants@nhs.net](mailto:priorapproval.northants@nhs.net) (from a secure nhs.net email address to which the response will also be sent). The post room at Francis Crick House is closing at the end of March and therefore we will no longer be able to accept requests via post.

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

#### Disclaimer

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