



- **Regional / local implementation guideline for NICE TAs 249 and 256 - dabigatran and rivaroxaban for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in AF**

This countywide implementation guidance has been approved both locally via NPAG and by the East Midlands Cardiovascular Network. The guidance gives advice on the patients who may be suitable for these drugs as an alternative to warfarin and recommends that treatment should currently only be initiated in secondary care, supported by the anticoagulant clinics. Given that the anticoagulant clinics are commissioned as block contracts, extra activity via these clinics will not result in increased referral costs for practices. GPs can take on prescribing following initiation; shared care advice is included in the guideline.

Intranet link [Implementation of NICE TAs 249 & 256 - Dabigatran & Rivaroxaban](#)

Pathfinder RF link [Implementation of NICE TAs 249 & 256 - Dabigatran & Rivaroxaban](#)

- **Vitamin D Adult Guideline**

Countywide guidelines for vitamin D were also approved at the last NPAG meeting. The guideline covers the treatment of deficiency in adults, provides information on the choice of products and advises on whether supply should be at NHS expense or purchased over-the-counter. Although mainly aimed at adults, it does also cover the Healthy Start scheme and health promotion advice, both of which apply to children and adults. Guidelines on deficiency in children are still under development.

Intranet link [NNHS Guidelines on Vitamin D Deficiency & Prescribing](#)

Pathfinder RF link [NNHS Guidelines on Vitamin D Deficiency & Prescribing](#)

- **Atorvastatin patent expiry**

The patent on atorvastatin expired in May 2012 and the Drug Tariff price has already fallen considerably. Simvastatin remains our first-line statin choice, but the Prescribing Advisers will be working with practices to look at opportunities to switch suitable patients taking rosuvastatin to atorvastatin. A protocol has been written to assist patient selection. In addition, practices should now ensure that all scripts for atorvastatin are written generically (not as Lipitor) to maximise the windfall saving from the generic price decrease.

- **Revised Blood Glucose Testing Guidelines**

The Northamptonshire Guidelines have been revised to reflect the updated DVLA guidance.

Pathfinder RF link [BGT Guidelines for HCPs](#)

- **'Nutrition and the Eye' Leaflet**

The Macular Disease Society publishes a useful patient leaflet called 'Nutrition and the Eye' which may be useful to provide to patients if queries arise about the "double red" status of vitamin supplements for AMD.

<http://www.maculardisease.org/page.asp?section=189§ionTitle=Information+Leaflets>

- **MHRA Safety Update June 2012**

This MHRA safety update includes a reminder that oral tacrolimus products should be prescribed by brand. The growing number of oral tacrolimus products available on the market increases the potential for inadvertent switching between products, which has been associated with reports of toxicity and graft rejection. Therefore, to ensure maintenance of therapeutic response when a patient is stabilised on a particular brand, oral tacrolimus products should be prescribed and dispensed by brand name only

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/DrugSafetyUpdate/index.htm>

- **ONPOS Update**

An amendment has been made to when the NHS Supply Chain will commence supplying GP practices and nursing homes with orders they have placed on ONPOS. The new planned dates for implementation will be

This edition is also available on HNN (Health Network Northants)

<http://nww.northants.nhs.uk/Display/Dynamic.jsp?topid=14070&lhsid=514&oid=2854¤tid=2854>

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communicated when they are confirmed. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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