

# Tablet Press

The prescribing newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacists in  
Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust



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- **Inhaler repeat prescription ordering guides**

These have been developed to assist patients, repeat clerks, prescribers and pharmacists in determining how frequently inhalers should need to be re-ordered. Many inhalers will last longer than the usual 28-day repeat interval and these guides should help to reduce over-ordering and stockpiling.

The patient guide which can be attached to repeat prescriptions can be found on Pathfinder at [Inhaler Repeat Prescriptions Patient Information Leaflet](#) The repeat clerk / HCP guide can be found at [Inhaler Repeat Prescriptions](#)

- **Management of stable COPD guidelines – local formulary choices**

An annotated version of the NICE COPD algorithm has been produced to include the Northamptonshire 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line formulary choices. This can be found on Pathfinder at [Managing Stable COPD](#)

- **Guidelines for Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) and Repeat Dispensing (RD)**

As the numbers of GP practices and pharmacies enabled for ETP Release 2 increases, it was felt helpful to develop guidelines to assist the selection of appropriate patients for ETP plus RD. These have been developed with input from practices and pharmacies who are already using these systems in combination.

The guidelines can be found on Pathfinder at [Electronic Prescription Service & Repeat Dispensing](#)

- **NICE TA261 – rivaroxaban for treatment and prevention of DVT**

NICE have issued a TA which recommends rivaroxaban as an option for treating DVT and preventing recurrent DVT and pulmonary embolism after a diagnosis of acute DVT in adults. Local shared care arrangements will be agreed via NPAG by October (the statutory 3 month limit for implementation of the TA). Arrangements for individual patients may be made in the interim.

- **Jext update**

New Jext stock is now available with an expiry date of Feb 2014 i.e. 19 months shelf life. Whilst the cost of Jext is 8% more than Epipen it has continued to have an expiry which is 6 months longer than Epipen since its launch last September, making it better value. This situation should continue as the company have committed that the expiry of Jext is always 18 months minimum. If patients on Epipen were switched to Jext (when their Epipen needs replacing) there would be a significant reduction in expenditure as well as meaning patients/prescribers do not have to order/prescribe adrenaline pens as frequently. A patient letter template has been produced for practices that are transferring patients over to Jext. <http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/patient-information/> Please note Jext is now available on all clinical systems. Further information about Jext can be found in a previous TP Extra [http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/273833/tablet\\_press\\_extra\\_-\\_jext.pdf](http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/273833/tablet_press_extra_-_jext.pdf)

- **ONPOS**

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

- **Insulin safety training**

In the recent TP Extra on the NPSA insulin alert it was highlighted that Insulin safety training is now a requirement for all healthcare professionals who prescribe, prepare, handle or administer insulin. Staff were provided with a link to a module on the Safe Use of Insulin but unfortunately it was highlighted that GP practice staff could not access this. This has now been resolved and GP staff can access this e-training by going to <http://nhstdiabetes.healthcare.co.uk/> and selecting ENGLAND, clicking on “register”, ticking the Terms & Condition and clicking on the register box. For “Type of organisation” select **NON-NHS**. Click on “safe use of insulin” then “register now. On the Self Registration form under organisation enter your GP practice name (as listed on spreadsheet attached) and select your surgery. Fill in your personal details and it will also ask you for your Organisation Code (see spreadsheet). Then create a unique Username for yourself and select Register. You will then be able to access the training.

- **Availability of documents for community pharmacists**

We are very much aware that community pharmacists cannot currently access our prescribing guidelines via Pathfinder or the NHS Northamptonshire Intranet. We are working with our IT and Communications teams to develop a dedicated Medicines Management page on the Nene Commissioning website. This is a public-facing internet site and will mean that all our documents will soon be widely and easily accessible for community pharmacists (and others).

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

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

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