



- **Changes to the prescribing and availability of Epanutin™ (Phenytoin Sodium) capsules**

Attention is drawn to the recent letter from Flynn Pharma Ltd to Doctors and Pharmacists regarding the discontinuation of Epanutin Capsules. All other presentations of Epanutin continue to be available. Flynn Pharma Ltd recently acquired the Marketing Authorisations for Epanutin capsules, following which the name has been changed to Phenytoin Sodium Flynn Hard Capsules. Epanutin will no longer be available as soon as current Pfizer stocks are exhausted and at that point future prescriptions must be written as "Phenytoin Sodium Flynn xmg Hard Capsules". Pharmacists and GP practices will need to liaise accordingly to ensure that the correct product is prescribed.

- **Nasal influenza vaccine (Fluenz)**

The Green Book advises that the nasal vaccine (Fluenz) is the preferred vaccine for children aged two to less than 18 years. Currently patients in this age group should only receive a flu vaccine on the NHS if they are in one of the listed clinical risk groups.

However Fluenz should **not** be given to patients with certain immunodeficiencies (see contraindications), with severe asthma (British Thoracic Society and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (BTS SIGN) step 4 or above), active wheezing at the time of vaccination or when pregnant (see precautions).

It is anticipated that the number of patients aged two to less than 18 years in one of the clinical risk groups is small (especially once patients with immunodeficiencies and asthma/wheezing are excluded) and therefore Fluenz has not been included in this season's PGD. Any supply would need to be prescribed for the individual patient or via a patient specific direction.

- **Infant Formula Prescribing Guidelines**

Northamptonshire guidelines of the prescribing of infant formula have been finalised and can be found on Pathfinder at this link.

[Baby Milk Prescribing Guidelines](#)

- **Bisphosphonates for osteoporosis: how long should treatment be continued?**

This is a subject that we are often asked about but the evidence is not clear or conclusive.

A recent Medicines Evidence Commentary from NICE considers [a systematic review](#) by the US Food and Drug Administration of the long-term safety and efficacy of bisphosphonates and has suggested that, in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis who have been treated for 3–5 years, there was no additional benefit on fracture rates from further treatment, but also no additional harm. However, data are limited and general conclusions are difficult to draw.

[Click here to read this medicines evidence commentary in full](#)

- **New Medicines Management page on the Nene CCG website.**

We are pleased to advise that there is a new Medicines Management page on the Nene CCG website. This contains our guidelines, patient information leaflets, formulary, Tablet Press and NPAG bullets.

We currently do **not** have a traffic light drugs list and SCP links on the site but this is work in progress. The traffic light drug list is still available on pathfinderRF.

To view the new pages go to www.neneccg.nhs.uk and hover over the 'About Nene CCG' tab. The same pages will also be added to the Corby CCG website very soon.

A login is not necessary for access to the medicine management page (unlike pathfinderRF).

This is a public facing website so community pharmacies and the general public will be able to access it.

The Medicines Management pages have now been removed from the intranet as this will be shut down shortly making way for a new version which will combine NHS Milton Keynes and NHS Northamptonshire into one site. There will be a link on the old intranet (until it is fully closed) redirecting to pathfinderRF and the Nene CCG site.

PathfinderRF remains available; please continue to use this if you are on an NHS connection as this is a more clinically facing site and contains all of our documents. <http://nwww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

- **BNF mobile App**

This app has been produced by NICE and is available for iPhone and Android phones. It is free to NHS staff and can be used offline – no need for internet. An Athens password is required to access via app stores.

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

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

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