



# Tablet Press

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



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- **Financial Recovery Plan (FRP)**

Using the latest data available from the Prescription Pricing Authority, it appears that the PCT is on track to achieve the prescribing savings identified back in July 2006 under the FRP of approximately £2.9 million by the year-end. This of course, is dependent on continued vigilance with the prescribing strategy, but all those (GPs, nurses, pharmacists, technicians and admin staff) who have implemented the switches and suspensions, provided explanations to patients and dealt with complaints are thanked for their support.

- **MHRA reiterates its position on the withdrawal of co-proxamol**

The MHRA has reiterated its position on the withdrawal of co-proxamol and confirmed that it will only be prescribable on an unlicensed basis after the end of 2007. GPs will be trying to ensure that as many patients as possible are changed to an alternative and community pharmacists are asked to support them in this process, even if co-proxamol appears to be in plentiful supply now, as all licensed products are expected to be withdrawn by the end of 2007.

[http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2025739&ssTargetNodeid=387](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2025739&ssTargetNodeid=387)

- **Strengthened governance arrangement for Controlled Drugs**

The Regulations came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and the final guidance can be found at [www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/14/16/67/04141667.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/14/16/67/04141667.pdf)

- **GMC Good Practice in Prescribing Medicines**

This useful guidance from the GMC has recently been updated and includes issues such as

- Prescribing controlled drugs for yourself or someone close to you
- Prescribing for patients to whom you also dispense
- Prescribing unlicensed medicines
- Prescribing medicines for use outside the terms of their licence (off-label)
- Responsibility for prescribing medicines for hospital outpatients
- Patient Group Directions
- Remote prescribing via telephone, email, fax, video link or a website

Follow the link below for the full guidance

[http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/current/library/prescriptions\\_faqs.asp#p1](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/current/library/prescriptions_faqs.asp#p1)

- **Home Oxygen Service website for patients**

A home oxygen service website for patients and the public has been launched. The site contains a range of information for patients about receiving and using home oxygen services, as well as contact details for their regional supplier.

[www.homeoxygen.nhs.uk](http://www.homeoxygen.nhs.uk)

- **Malaria Guidelines**

New guidelines for malaria prevention in travellers from the United Kingdom have been produced by the Health Protection Agency. These comprehensive guidelines include advice on chemoprophylaxis, risk awareness and bite prevention as well as advice for those with co-existing conditions such as epilepsy, renal impairment, pregnancy and breastfeeding.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/publications/2006/Malaria/guidelines.htm?submit=Accept>

- **Steroids for rheumatoid patients – NGH advice**

Rheumatologists at NGH have expressed concern about a few cases of initiation of steroids for rheumatoid patients in primary care. They have requested that advice should be sought by GPs & nurse prescribers before initiating steroids unless part of a clear written shared care pathway.

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

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

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