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## Contact SCOTLAND BSL

On-line sign language video relay service for BSL users enabling access to public and voluntary sectors;

- Council services
- NHS
- Community groups
- Voluntary organizations
- and many, many more!

Contact details:

[www.contactscotland-bsl.org](http://www.contactscotland-bsl.org)

[info@contactscotland-bsl.org](mailto:info@contactscotland-bsl.org)

Opening hours: 8am-12midnight, 7 days a week



## Script Switch

Script Switch is an application which we pay for, it is now used in the vast majority of practices. Script switch's aim is to help practices increase their formulary prescribing. Script switch can also be used to make changes to patient's regular medicines. Alternative cost-effective medicines will be suggested, no change will be made to regular medicines without approval of the doctor.

## The new Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer is Susan Roberts.

Contact details as followed:  
Telephone Direct 32786, External 01387272786  
Email [susanroberts10@nhs.net](mailto:susanroberts10@nhs.net)

## OTC medicines – buy your own

We will shortly be launching a campaign to encourage the public to purchase their own medicines for minor and short-term conditions rather than obtaining them on prescription. This is in an attempt to reduce the amount of prescribing for items such as paracetamol which can be bought easily and cheaply from supermarkets and pharmacies. It would be appreciated if GPs and Community Pharmacists could make patients aware of items which are available to purchase in an acute situation and encourage them to buy their own where possible. By doing this we hope to save **£20,000**. The money saved could be used for medicines to treat more serious conditions.

Remember pharmacists can help with many minor ailments such as colds, coughs, sore throats, simple eye infections, urinary tract infections, muscle strains and sprains to name but a few.

## Hepatitis A vaccine shortage

Due to the global shortage of Hepatitis A vaccines Public Health England has published recommendations on options for travel vaccines to preserve the adult monovalent stock. Vaccines should be used in this order of preference:

- 1 - single dose of combination HepA/typhoid vaccine;
- 2 - single dose of paediatric monovalent HepA vaccine;
- 3 - single dose of adult combination HepA/HepB vaccine;
- 4 - single dose of adult monovalent HepA vaccine.

The use of combination vaccines may be preferred when typhoid or Hepatitis B is also recommended for travel. Use of the paediatric monovalent vaccine will provide an equivalent immune response at one month as the adult monovalent vaccine. NaTHNaC have updated their guidance so Hepatitis A will no longer be recommended for most travellers to a number of countries.

For the full guidance please see [Hepatitis A vaccination in adults- Temporary Recommendations](#)

## Enoxaparin (Clexane®)

MHRA advise that enoxaparin should be prescribed by brand name because new biosimilars will be available in September. Only 20% of prescriptions are currently issued by brand name in primary care. Decisions on LMWH product choice will typically be made in hospitals and only when patients require longer term treatment will GP's be asked to issue prescriptions. To support ensuring patients receive a consistent brand in primary care it would be helpful if the brand name of LMWH is included in the referral letter that goes to the GP.

## Specific drug issues

### Ibuprofen gel

The formulary choice of topical NSAID is Ibuprofen 5% gel. There is little evidence to support the use of the stronger 10% ibuprofen gel, which is also more expensive.



### Emollients

Initially please prescribe small quantities (50g) of emollients to avoid waste and ensure effectiveness before prescribing larger amounts (500g).

Remember the formulary choice emollients are Epimax®, Exocream® and Isomol Gel®.

### Camouflagers

Please be aware that 'Changing faces' have been recommending the non-formulary Veil® cream. Dermacolour® is recommended in the formulary and should be prescribed where appropriate.

### Carbocisteine

If a patient is unable to swallow carbocisteine capsules, please prescribe carbocisteine 750mg/10ml oral solution in 10ml sachets.

### Patient Safety Alerts

Risk of severe harm and death due to withdrawing insulin form pen devices, see link for further information;

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/news-alerts/risk-severe-harm-and-death-withdrawing-insulin-pen-devices/>

Naloxone – safety advice regarding suitable dosage. See link for more information; <https://improvement.nhs.uk/news-alerts/support-minimise-risk-distress-and-death-inappropriate-doses-naloxone/>

**Summary of the latest Scottish Medicines Consortium decisions; for full advice see: [www.scottishmedicines.org.uk](http://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk)**

#### Accepted with restricted use

**stiripentol (Diacomit), Biocodex** In conjunction with clobazam and valproate as adjunctive therapy of refractory generalised tonic-clonic seizures in patients with severe myoclonic epilepsy in infancy (SMEI; Dravet's syndrome) whose seizures are not adequately controlled with clobazam and valproate.

**magnesium glycerophosphate (Neomag), Neocentials Ltd** as an oral magnesium supplement for the treatment of patients with chronic magnesium loss or hypomagnesaemia as diagnosed by a doctor. Magnesium glycerophosphate is also indicated for adult patients with hypomagnesaemia due to the concomitant administration of loop and thiazide diuretics or other drugs which cause hypomagnesaemia

**Accepted by SMC but NOT added to D&G formulary as available from other specialist centers**

**nivolumab (Opdivo), Bristol-Myers Squibb** As monotherapy, for the treatment of squamous cell cancer of the head and neck (SCCHN) in adults progressing on or after platinum-based therapy.

**NOT recommended for use in NHS Scotland and NOT added to D&G formulary**

**etelcalcetide (Parsabiv), Amgen Ltd** Treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism (HPT) in adult patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) on haemodialysis therapy

**roflumilast (Daxas), AstraZeneca** for maintenance treatment of severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (forced expiratory volume in one second [FEV<sub>1</sub>]) post-bronchodilator less than 50% predicted) associated with chronic bronchitis in adult patients with a history of frequent exacerbations as add on to bronchodilator treatment

**bevacizumab 25mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (Avastin), Roche Products Ltd** In combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel for the treatment of adult patients with first recurrence of platinum-sensitive epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer who have not received prior therapy with bevacizumab or other VEGF inhibitors or VEGF receptor-targeted agents.

### Updated Gluten-Free Formulary

The gluten-free formulary has been updated. A selection of gluten-free food 'staples' are available on prescription to help patients with a confirmed diagnosis of Coeliac disease or Dermatitis Herpetiformis comply with the recommended gluten free diet. The monthly prescription allowance for these products is based on calorie requirements, dependent on age and is recorded in units.

The updated gluten free formulary and can be located on the prescribing matters web site;

<http://www.dgprescribingmatters.co.uk/documents/Gluten%20free%20formulary%202017.pdf>



### Contact the Prescribing Support Team @

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