

# Prescribing Newsletter

Produced by Herefordshire CCG  
Medicines Optimisation Team

September 2019

## Significant Medicines Supply Communications



The impact of stock shortages can have a substantial effect on a patient, community pharmacies and the NHS as a whole. Herefordshire CCG in conjunction with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire LPC have developed a secure electronic messaging system using the PharmOutcomes platform for pharmacies to raise queries with practices where there are significant medicines shortages for individual patients. Pharmacists will indicate whether the request is “urgent” or “non-urgent”; where the pharmacy is able to suggest an alternative, which is in stock they will do so. A helpful page with a number of resources including how to report shortages nationally can be found on the link below:

<http://www.hwllpc.co.uk/resources-2/supply-chain/supply-shortages/>

The secure electronic communication to a practice NHS net address is directed “For the attention of the practice pharmacist” we hope will reduce the time on the telephone for all parties. Any queries on this please contact Alison Rogers

[alison.rogers@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:alison.rogers@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk) or [medsopt@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:medsopt@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk)

## Stockpiling of Medicines

If you become aware of patients being advised to stockpile medicines from outside agencies or patient groups, please inform the Medicines Team at the CCG so this can be fed up to a regional level.

You can find additional information here

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/eu-exit/medicines/>

  
Herefordshire  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## STOP PRESS!



### HRT Supply Information

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have issued information regarding manufacturing issues that have affected the supply of some hormone replacement therapy (HRT) products throughout 2019.

[This table](#) provides the latest update on the availability of all HRT products marketed in the UK and the known resupply date for products that are currently experiencing supply issues. This table also provides an update of all HRT preparations that remain available

UKMI have also issued a memo regarding the shortage of HRT Available [here](#).

### UTI Assessment

Due to recent incidents highlighting inappropriate dipstick testing a [UTI assessment tool](#) has been developed for patients 65 years old & over.

### Specials Guidance

An update to local [specials guidance](#) is now available on the website.

This document provides an A-Z list of drugs where:

1. Alternative licensed products exist
2. Drugs which can be crushed or dispersed in water (unlicensed)

As well as the [UKMI guide](#) on medicines which require extra care when switching from tablets to liquids.

### eRD Handbook

A [guidebook](#) on managing electronic repeat dispensing (eRD) in practices is now available on the CCG website.

The information contained in this newsletter is issued on the understanding that it is the best available from the resources at our disposal at the time of issue. **Comments, suggestions, contributions welcome!** Medicines Optimisation Team  
[medsopt@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:medsopt@herefordshireccg.nhs.uk)

## Herefordshire Outcomes Framework (HOF) Resources

To support the implementation of HOF the Medicines Optimisation Team have produced a suite of graphs to inform focus areas for practices around key areas; Opioids and ONS. Please see the appendix.



**Liothyronine** - New guidance from Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee has been released. The guidance can be found [here](#). Liothyronine remains a low value medicine.

**EMIS Formulary** – The latest [EMIS formulary](#) is now available to download from Herefordshire CCG website. In line with HOF all practices should import into EMIS and assign to all prescribers. Please contact the Medicines Optimisation Team if you need advice on how to do this.

**Eclipse** are doing training in Herefordshire. Please book onto the training using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/herefordshire-ccg-27254254607>

## Hormone replacement therapy (HRT): further information on the known increased risk of breast cancer with HRT and its persistence after stopping

New data has confirmed that the risk of breast cancer is increased during use of all types of HRT, except vaginal estrogens, and have also shown that an excess risk of breast cancer persists for longer after stopping HRT than previously thought. Prescribers of HRT should discuss the updated total risk with women using HRT at their next routine appointment. Further information can be found [here](#)

### Opioid Awareness

Sean's story – an inspiring story for both patients and prescribers is available on NHS England's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnJHJ9ZIJjY&feature=youtu.be>

The film highlights the dangers of over-prescribing opioids for chronic pain and shows how patient Sean Jennings, from Cornwall changed his life with other treatment.

### New Formulary Choice for Oxycodone MR

The CCG WVT Formulary Working Group has approved a change in the preferred Oxycodone MR release preparation for Herefordshire.

**Oxypro® MR tablet** is now the product of choice replacing Reltebon®.

ScriptSwitch messages will be added to support this change. In line with good practice, modified release oxycodone should be branded for consistency of preparation for patients.

Palliative care services and community pharmacists have been informed of the countywide change.

**Welcome to the Team!** We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of the Medicines Optimisation Team – Amy Like!

We have two Prescribing Support Technicians, Amy and Andrea who are both Pharmacy Technicians registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council who support prescribing in GP surgeries across Herefordshire. Pharmacy Technicians are a valued part of the CCG Medicines Optimisation team auditing prescribing and making cost and clinically effective switches. They can also update the EMIS Clinical Systems. Our CCG pharmacy technicians have a good understanding of the working processes in both primary and secondary care and have expertise in Audit, Medicines Safety, Antibiotics, Blood Glucose Monitoring, Oral Nutritional Supplements and make many significant interventions. Amy and Andrea certainly appreciate the friendly welcome and support they receive in GP practices.