



This bulletin is intended to accompany **Issue 19** of **Kent & Medway CCG Medicines Optimisation (MO)** newsletter, dated 17/12/2020. Please send all medicines queries relating to the articles written to: [kmccg.wkmedman@nhs.net](mailto:kmccg.wkmedman@nhs.net)

### Drug Safety Update

#### Update to Adverse Effects associated with Pregabalin Use – Potential Severe Respiratory Depression

The Lyrica SPC has been updated to warn of reports of severe respiratory depression in relation to Pregabalin use; dose adjustments may be necessary in at risk patients (e.g. those with compromised respiratory function, respiratory or neurological disease, renal impairment, on CNS depressants and elderly). Further details can be found in the product literature [here](#). (This potential adverse effect applies to **all** pregabalin products).

#### MHRA Alert: Insulins (All Types) – Reminder about the Risk of Cutaneous Amyloidosis at Injection Site



Patients who inject insulin at the same site regularly are at an increased risk of developing cutaneous amyloidosis at the injection site and consequently may have poor diabetes control, due to lack of insulin absorption at the amyloid mass.

Advice for clinicians:

- Remind patients to rotate injection sites within the same body region to reduce or prevent the risk of cutaneous amyloidosis and other skin reactions (for example, lipodystrophy)
- Consider cutaneous amyloidosis as a differential diagnosis to lipodystrophy when a patient presents with subcutaneous lumps at an insulin injection site
- Advise patients that insulin may not work very well if they inject into an affected 'lumpy' area; and to contact their doctor if they are currently injecting insulin into a 'lumpy' area before changing injection site, since a sudden change may result in hypoglycaemia.
- Patients should also be advised to monitor blood glucose carefully after a change in injection site and that dose adjustment of insulin or other antidiabetic medication may be needed.

For further information, please see MHRA alert [here](#).

### Supply, Shortages & Alerts Update

<p><b>Rifadin® (Rifampicin)</b> <b>100mg/5ml oral suspension</b></p>  <p>MSN_Rifadin Suspension.pdf</p>	<p>Limited supplies with resupply expected w/c 18 January 2021. Until 18 January 2021, supplies will only remain available to primary care. Where demand exceeds the historic use for a pharmacy, a prescription validation process will be implemented. Anonymised prescriptions will need to be sent via email to Sanofi Customer Services <a href="mailto:UK-GFD-DTPsupply@sanofi.com">UK-GFD-DTPsupply@sanofi.com</a> to receive further supplies. Rifampicin 150mg and 300mg capsules remain available.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">PSNC alert</a> and supporting information below for more details.</p>
<p><b>Butec® (Buprenorphine)</b> <b>15microgram/hour</b> <b>transdermal patches</b></p>  <p>MSN_Butec 15microgram patch.pdf</p>	<p>Out of stock from mid-December until week commencing 18 January 2021. Alternative brands of buprenorphine 15microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) remain available. If alternative brands are not considered suitable, Butec® 5 and 10microgram/hour transdermal patches (7-day) remain available. See the supporting information for further advice.</p>






### Supply, Shortages & Alerts Update Continued

<b>Oral Contraceptive Tablets – Update</b>  MSN_Oral Contraceptives.pdf	Brevinor® (Ethinylestradiol/norethisterone 35microgram/500 microgram tablets)	w/c 11 January 2021	No exact equivalent available. Unlicensed imports have been sourced, lead times vary.
	Femodette® (Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets)	w/c 18 January 2021	Equivalent alternatives (Akizza® and Millinette®) remain available and can support an increase in demand.
	Norimin® (Ethinylestradiol/norethisterone 35microgram/1mg tablets)	w/c 11 January 2021	No exact equivalent available. Unlicensed imports have been sourced, lead times vary.
	Norinyl-1® (Mestranol 50microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets)	w/c 22 February 2021	No exact equivalent available. Unlicensed imports have been sourced, lead times vary.
	Synphase® (Ethinylestradiol/norethisterone/ 35microgram/500microgram and 35microgram/1mg tablets)	w/c 4 January 2021	Unlicensed imports of Synphase® tablets have been sourced; lead times vary.
	Yiznell® (Ethinylestradiol/drospirenone 30microgram/3mg tablets)	Early January 2021	Equivalent alternatives with same composition remain available from suppliers of following brands: Dretine®, Yacella®, Yasmin®, Ellaite® and Lucette®.
	Clinicians are advised to refer to <a href="#">CKS guidance</a> and the BNF for further information.		
<b>Mupirocin (Bactroban®) 2% cream</b>	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the sole supplier is out of stock until early January 2021. Mupirocin (Bactroban®) 2% ointment remains available.		
<b>Tapentadol (Palexia®) 20mg/ml oral solution</b>	Grunenthal, the sole supplier is out of stock until late December 2020. Palexia® 50mg tablets remain available		
<b>Pancreatin (Pancrex V® and Pancrex V® 125mg) capsules</b>	Essential Pharmaceuticals are out of stock until at least January 2021. Other pancreatin products remain available.		



### Supply, Shortages & Alerts Update Continued....

<p><b>Fluoxetine 30mg capsules – update</b></p>  <p>MSN_Fluoxetine 30mg caps 1220.pdf</p>	<p>The serious shortage protocol (<a href="#">SSP007</a>) previously expected to end on 4th December 2020 has been extended till 8th January 2021.</p>
<p><b>Salazopyrin® EN-Tabs 500mg – update</b></p>  <p>MSN_Salazopyrin En-Tabs 1220.pdf</p>	<p>This serious shortage protocol (<a href="#">SSP008</a>) previously expected to end on 22nd December 2020 has been extended till 8th January 2021.</p>
<p><b>23-valent polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23®) Pre-filled syringes (Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited)</b></p>  <p>VSN2020_001U-2 Pneumovax 23 (PPV2)</p>	<p>Supplies of Pneumovax® 23 pre-filled syringes (PFS) are now out of stock until late January 2021, due to increased demand. Public Health England (PHE) have re-issued the clinical prioritisation guideline included in the attached document:</p>



**On behalf of the entire Kent & Medway CCG Medicines Optimisation Team, we wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.**