

# SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

## June 2024

Resources to support healthcare professionals working in all areas of the health system

**\* Please share with the wider team \***

The first stop for professional medicines advice

June 2024

# ADVICE & GUIDANCE

**Using domperidone for low milk supply:** Domperidone can be used to treat low milk supply. However, this is only after thorough assessment and once non-medical interventions have been tried.

**Purchasing for safety:** Using principles of purchasing for safety when making purchasing decisions supports the safe clinical use of medicines and can minimise inadvertent harm

**Investigating suspected tampering with medicines:** A systematic approach should be taken to responding to reports of possible malicious tampering, securing the evidence, and seeking specialist advice and support

**Treating lice during breastfeeding:** Wet combing, dimeticone, malathion or permethrin can be used during breastfeeding; choice will depend on the indication. Other treatments can be considered.

**Medication Safety Update: June 2024:** A resource collating the latest medication safety communications and publications to inform, support and inspire medication safety improvements.

# ADVICE & GUIDANCE

**Switching strategies for antidepressants:** The choice of antidepressant switching strategy depends on the person and antidepressant. We describe the current strategies and their application.

**Understanding enzyme or transporter-based drug interactions:** Many interactions are due to inhibition or induction of metabolising enzymes or drug transporters. Enzyme, transporter, and drug half-lives dictate duration.

**Understanding excipients in medicines:** Guidance on excipients and suggested resources to help find information to support queries about excipients and decision making is provided

**Searching for presence or absence of an excipient in medicines:** Guidance on using the electronic medicines compendium (eMC) advanced search function, other suggested reference sources and tips for acting on search results.

# Hot Topic

## Issues affecting Pabrinex

Intramuscular Pabrinex has been discontinued, and intravenous Pabrinex is affected by a long term supply issue. Further information can be found on the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) (you must be registered and signed into our website to access this resource).

Given the current supply challenges, you may find the following articles beneficial;

**Using and prescribing thiamine in alcohol dependence:** Intramuscular and intravenous thiamine can be used to prevent complications of alcohol dependence such as Wernicke's encephalopathy.

**Prescribing thiamine in patients at risk of refeeding syndrome:** Intravenous thiamine for prevention of refeeding syndrome should be reserved for those with intestinal failure where the oral or enteral route is unavailable.

# WEBINARS & EVENTS

## Next events:

### **Primary care discussions: Population health in practice**

Tuesday 2 July 2024 13:00-14:00 [Register Here](#)

### **Improving Health Outcomes in Health and Justice**

Thursday 11 July 2024 13:00-14:00 [Register Here](#)

### **Corrective and preventive action in pharmacy technical services**

Tuesday 23 July 2024 13:00-14:00 [Register Here](#)

## Past events:

[Listen back](#) to our past events.

# PLANNING

[New Medicines News](#) - Highlights recent new product launches and regulatory changes.

[New Product Evaluations](#) - Lists new product evaluations freely available to NHS staff.

[Medicines Supply Tool](#) - Information provided by DHSC and NHSE Medicines Supply Teams for medication shortages (you must be registered and signed into our website to access this resource).

# SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

**Pabrinex Injection:** There is a long term supply issue with the IV and the IM is being discontinued. An updated MSN has been issued. Allocations have been set at 100% historical usage for the IM preparation and 80% for the IV. Clinical advice for refeeding syndrome and alcohol withdrawal is available on the SPS website and advice for use in critical care is being formulated.

**Salbutamol nebulas:** These continue to be in short supply. MSN has been issued. Imports will be required to support the market.

**Aciclovir Injection:** There are issues with supply, and an MSN has been shared. Trusts will need to order unlicensed imports.

**Aztreonam Injection:** There is a pending supply issue with this and an MSN has been issued.

**Hyrimoz (adalimumab):** Sandoz have given notice on all contracts for this product. Trusts need to work with their RPPS and homecare leads to look at alternative options. A NatPSA is being formulated.

# SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

**Basiliximab:** Supply will be constrained for a period of time. This is being managed by DHSC and the SPS procurement teams. Allocations are being managed by the SPS procurement team, so please contact them for any queries.

**Albumin:** There are supply constraints of both strengths of albumin. Trusts are on monthly allocations, so please review where this is used and use alternatives if possible.

**IV fluids:** The supply issues with IV fluids are continuing. MPSC and SPS Procurement are meeting regularly with suppliers to manage supplies. Please speak to your regional procurement specialists if you have any questions

**Alteplase:** Allocations for July will be sent out to Trusts shortly. National guidance for the use of alteplase in stroke has changed, however, the supply position remains constrained and cannot support any further increase in use.



# SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY DHSC

**Pancreatic Enzyme replacement therapy:** An MSN has been published around the availability of these medicines. There are supply constraints on Creon and Nutrizym. A NatPSA is being formulated. Please make sure to regularly check the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for the latest updates.

**Humulin S (insulin soluble human)100units/ml solution for injection vials:** There are issues with supply and an MSN is being developed.

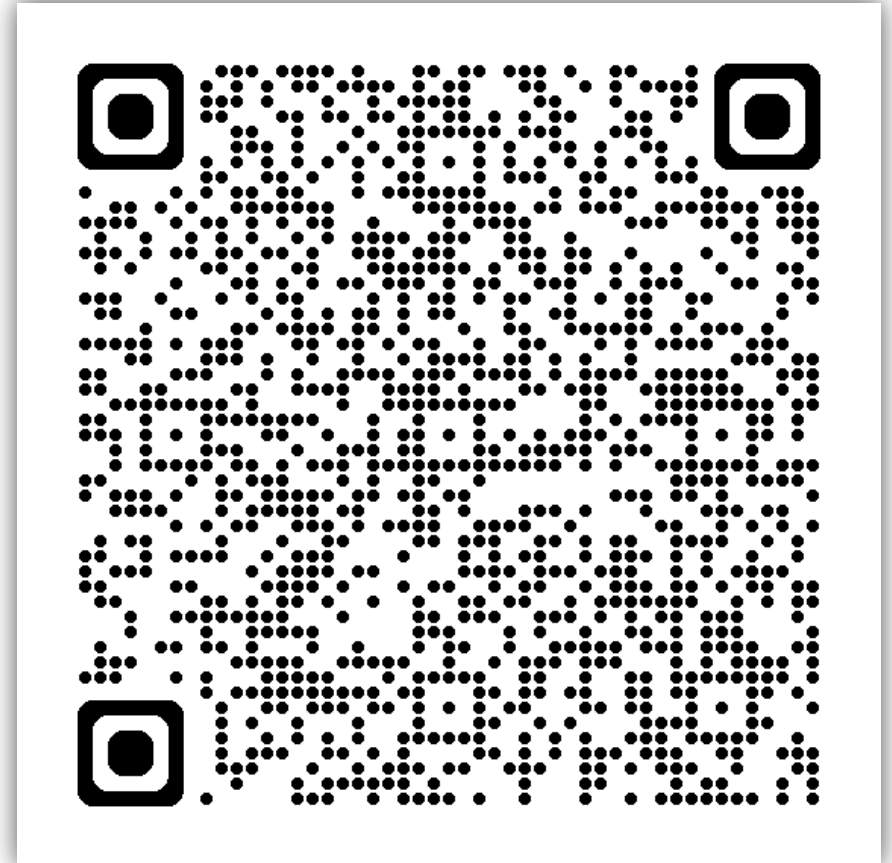
**ADHD medicines:** Further support and information can be found via: [Prescribing available medicines to treat ADHD.](#)

**GLP-1 inhibitors:** An updated MSN has been issued with details on availability of each product. Further information can be found via [Prescribing available GLP-1 receptor agonists](#)

# Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to look through our Spotlight Monthly Digest. We're eager to gather feedback on Spotlight and would greatly appreciate if you could spare 5 minutes to complete our survey.

[Survey link](#)



## **Access to the SPS Medicines Advice Service**

A single, national telephone number and email for the SPS Medicines Advice Service for primary care-based healthcare professionals, has now been launched.

**Email:** [askspns.nhs@sps.direct](mailto:askspns.nhs@sps.direct)

**Phone:** 0300 770 8564

## **KEEP UP TO DATE**

**Bookmark our website** <https://www.sps.nhs.uk>

**Register [here](#)** on our website and 'opt in' to receive the **weekly SPS bulletin**.

Follow us on **X** @NHS\_SPS

You can now also follow us on **LinkedIn** - search NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service or click the link and make sure you connect

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/specialist-pharmacy-service/>

## Using our advice

You remain professionally responsible and accountable for your own actions when using our advice and guidance.