

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

August 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

August 2024

HOT TOPIC - USTEKINUMAB

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Preparing to use ustekinumab biosimilar

Introducing biosimilar ustekinumab needs planning. Work with the multidisciplinary team to ensure familiarity with the area and develop an implementation plan.

Good governance when implementing ustekinumab biosimilar

Governance should consider processes for approval, procurement and supply, prescribing and administration, monitoring, and pharmacovigilance.

The licence and supporting evidence for ustekinumab biosimilars

Ustekinumab biosimilars (Pyzchiva, Uzpruvo, Wezenla) are licensed. Learn about the indications, available formulations, supporting evidence and differences.



WEBINAR Implementing ustekinumab biosimilar

Wednesday 4 September 2024 12:30-14:00

This webinar will provide information and guidance to support organisations switch to the best value ustekinumab biosimilar

[Register Here](#)

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Assessing suitability of medicines in a ketogenic diet: We advise on how to establish the carbohydrate content of a medicine and assess its suitability for a person on a medical ketogenic diet.

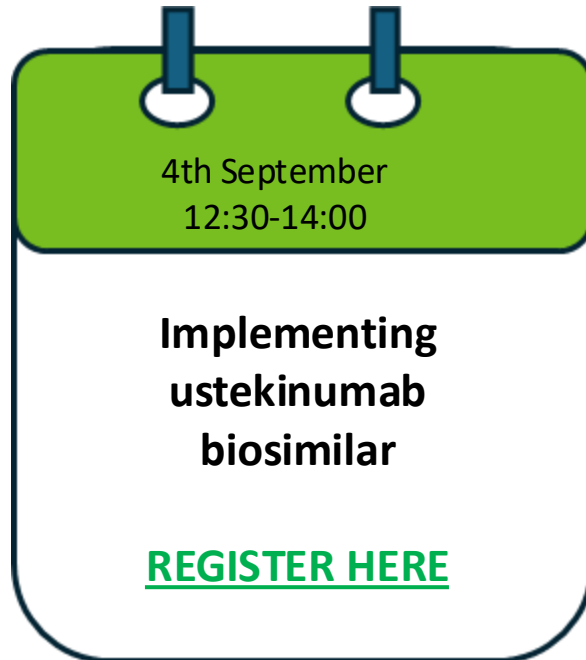
Treating acute hypokalaemia in adults: Untreated hypokalaemia (low potassium) can lead to life threatening arrhythmias. We guide on the safe management of potassium for acute hypokalaemia.

Assessing injectables for enteral administration: Clinical decisions on the use of injectable formulations for enteral administration should be guided by safety and practicality.

Managing reactions to dental local anaesthetic injections: Reactions to dental local anaesthetics (LA) are usually psychogenic. We describe symptoms and management of allergy, adverse effects and psychogenic reactions.

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

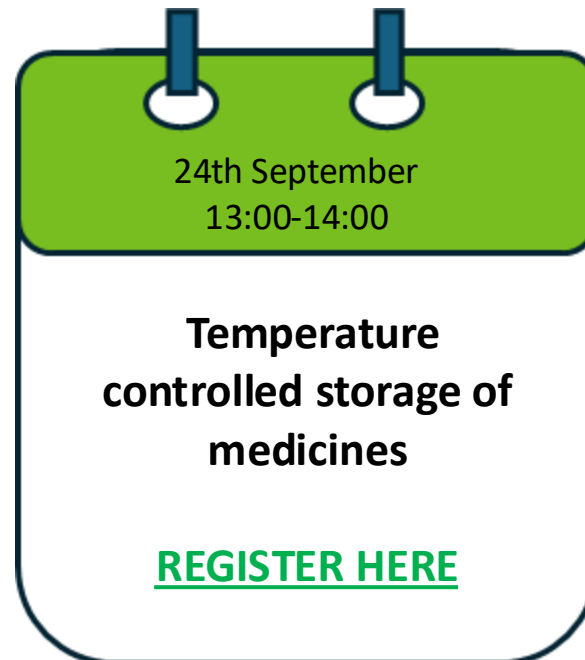
WEBINARS



4th September
12:30-14:00

**Implementing
ustekinumab
biosimilar**

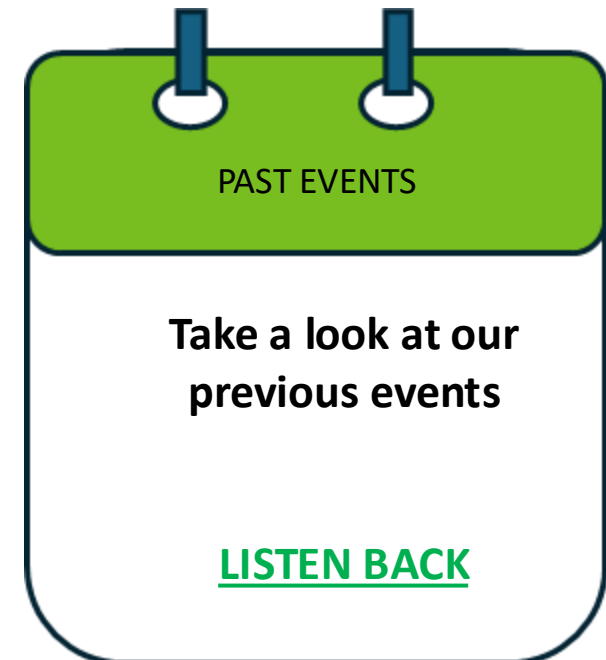
[REGISTER HERE](#)



24th September
13:00-14:00

**Temperature
controlled storage of
medicines**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



PAST EVENTS

**Take a look at our
previous events**

[LISTEN BACK](#)

EVENTS

SPS is going to the Pharmacy Show 2024 The Pharmacy Show is on the 13-14 October 2024 at NEC Birmingham. SPS are presenting and will have a stand.

SPS at the Quality Assurance and Technical Services Symposium SPS will be participating at the Quality Assurance and Technical Services (QATS) Symposium 2024 on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 October 2024 at NEC, Birmingham. Registration is now open via [eventbrite](#). Have you undertaken any research or service transformation at your site? Share it by [entering the poster competition](#).

SPS is going to Clinical Pharmacy Congress North 2024 Clinical Pharmacy Congress North is on the 1-2 November 2024 at Manchester Central. SPS are presenting and will have a stand.

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

Ustekinumab: Details of the new framework for Ustekinumab including biosimilars have been issued to Trusts and the framework starts on the 1st September 2024. Trust procurement, clinical and homecare teams need to engage and make local decisions as to preferred products to be used. Work needs to progress at pace to realise the significant saving opportunities available. Make sure you register for our webinar on [Implementing Ustekinumab Biosimilar](#)

Pegasys Injection: Supply will be constrained until June 2025. An MSN has been issued. Trust stock holding and usage data is being collated and the need for allocations scoped. Further details will be circulated to Trusts when available

Pabrinex Injection: There is a long term supply issue with the IV and the IM is being discontinued April 2025. An updated MSN has been issued. Allocations have been running for several months and the August allocation will be the last one. After this Trusts must be ready to use thiamine injection imports. Clinical advice for [refeeding syndrome](#) and [alcohol withdrawal](#) is available on the SPS website and advice for use in critical care is being formulated. Generic versions of Pabrinex are expected in the near future and updates on availability will be shared when available.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Basiliximab: Limited stock has recently become available. Trusts will now revert to their previous weekly cap.

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. A NatPSA has been issued

Alteplase: Allocations for August have been distributed to Trusts. A 25mg Tenecteplase product has been available since 12th August, with supply quantities in good condition. Trusts should begin preparing for its use. The need for additional Alteplase allocation in September will be reviewed. Once restrictions on Alteplase are lifted, Trusts should avoid overordering. Refer to the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for further information (website registration required)

Tyenne (tocilizumab): Supply from FK is constrained for the rest of the year. Further SC switching cannot be supported and 80mg and 400mg IV presentations will have significant out of stock periods.

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

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 has been issued. Please make sure to regularly check the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for the latest updates. A public facing page, [Prescribing and ordering available pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies](#) and [mini-tool](#) have been developed on the SPS website.

Viatrix UK has initiated a free Creon® customer service line dedicated to patients and healthcare professional affected by Creon® supply constraint. The purpose of the service is to provide the most up to date information on the supply of Creon®. The service will aim to provide information on the nearest pharmacies which have recently received supply. The Creon® customer service line can be reached via 0800 8086410. The service will be active from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00.

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](#)

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

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.