

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

January 2025

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

January 2025

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Treating acute hypomagnesaemia in adults: Untreated hypomagnesaemia (low magnesium) can lead to life threatening arrhythmias. We guide on the safe use of magnesium for acute hypomagnesaemia.

Considering interactions with local anaesthetics in dentistry: Interpreting significance of drug interactions with dental local anaesthetic (LA) cartridges and why most aren't clinically relevant in general dental practice.

Managing interactions with local anaesthetics in dentistry: Most drug interactions with local anaesthetics (LA) cartridges are not clinically relevant in general dentistry. We advise on management options where needed.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Assessing the clinical impact of lactose in medicines:

People with lactose intolerance may request lactose-free medicines although the amounts, when present as an excipient, are unlikely to cause symptoms in most.

Managing dosage adjustments for prescribed

medicines: Advice on managing medicines that may require dosage adjustments after they have been prescribed.

Covert administration of medicines: legal issues:

A summary of key legal issues, a pathway of actions and links to national guidance to consider before administering medicines covertly to adults.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Shelf lives of aseptically prepared medicines in NRFit

syringes: Provision of intrathecal and epidural injections in NRFit syringes may involve extrapolation of stability data from luer lock systems.

Gadopiclenol contrast agent: SPS PGD template for administering gadopiclenol intravenously for imaging investigations and procedures by registered radiographers.

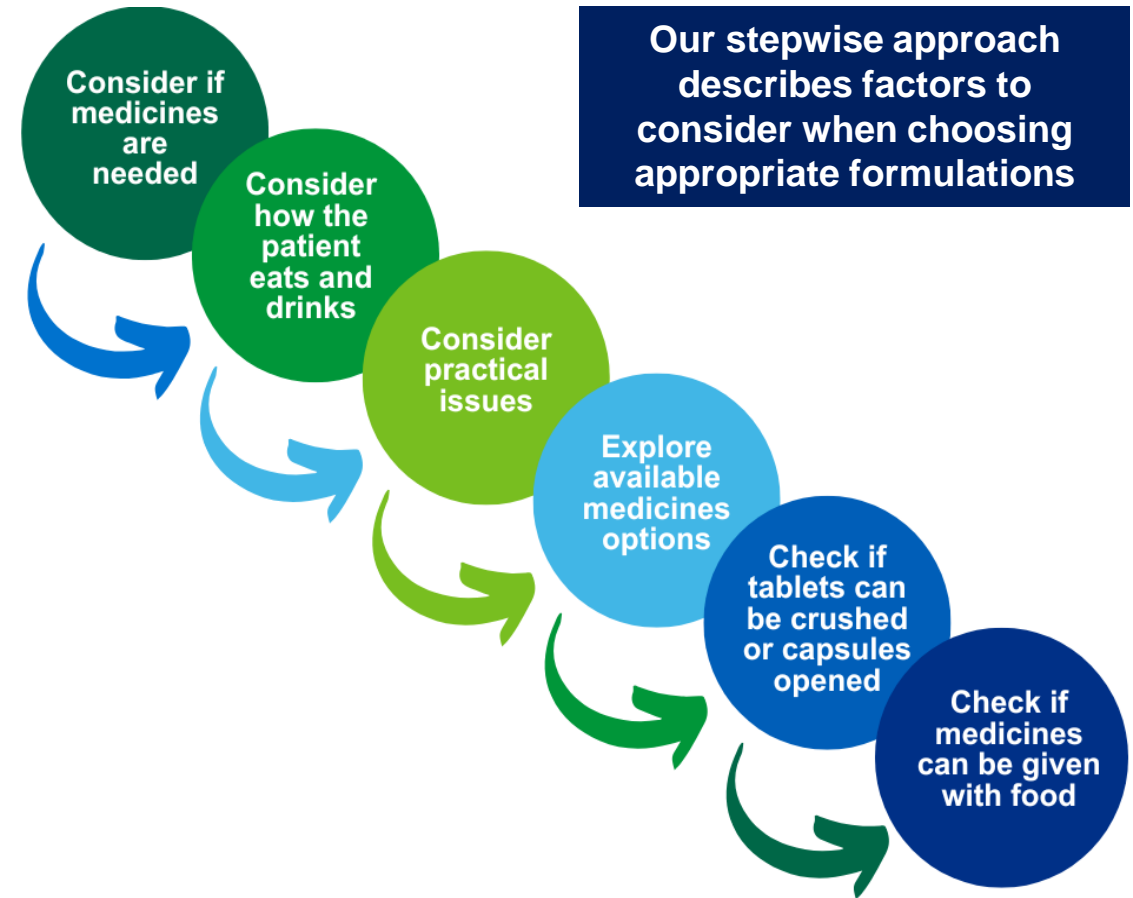
Medication Safety Update January 2025: A resource collating the latest medication safety communications and publications to inform, support and inspire medication safety improvements.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE: SWALLOWING DIFFICULTIES

All our advice on using medicines safely and effectively in patients with swallowing difficulties can now be found in one place.

On this page you will find links to pages with considerations on:

- choosing the correct formulation
- examples of medicines formulations for patients
- preparing and administering medicines to patients
- using thickeners
- enteral feeding tubes



ADVICE & GUIDANCE: Polypharmacy pages

Understanding polypharmacy, overprescribing and deprescribing:

We explore the causes, consequences and tools to support pharmacy professionals in managing polypharmacy, overprescribing and deprescribing in practice.

A person-centred approach to polypharmacy and medication

review: This article outlines how to identify, invite and apply a person-centred framework to support structured medication review.

Tools to support medication review: These practical tools aid medication review by identifying inappropriate medicines, guiding deprescribing, and empowering patients via shared decision making.

Resources to support medication review: These resources provide information and guidance that reflects the growing understanding of problematic polypharmacy and overprescribing.

EVENTS: Polypharmacy webinars

**Personalising
evidence based
medicine to reduce
polypharmacy**



11th February 13.00-14.00

An insight on principles of patient centred structured medication reviews; using the current evidence and shared decision making to facilitate de-prescribing. Register on the [SPS page](#).

4th March 13.00-14.00

A consultant pharmacist will use case studies to illustrate a patient-centred approach to deprescribing in patients with problematic polypharmacy. Register on the [SPS page](#).

EVENTS: WEBINARS

13th February
13:00 – 14:00

**Biosimilar and key
generic medicines -
February 2025 update**



You can register on the [SPS page Biosimilar and key generic medicines update](#)

25th February
13:00 – 14:00

**Chemical and physical
stability evaluation in
aseptic services**



You can register on the [Chemical and physical stability evaluation in aseptic services](#)

PREVIOUS WEBINARS AND EVENTS:



See the [SPS page on past events](#) to listen back to webinar recordings and look at past events.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY DHSC

Pancreatic Enzyme replacement therapy: A NatPSA was issued (May 2024). There are supply constraints on Creon and Nutrizym. 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.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Pegasys Injection: Supply will be constrained until June 2025. An MSN has been issued. Allocations of remaining stock have been issued to Trusts. These are fixed for the period of the supply disruption. Imports can be sourced to support supply. An [urgent interim commissioning policy](#) is available.

Calcium Folate Injection: There are ongoing supply issues. An MSN has been issued. Imports will be needed to support in the interim and Trusts will need to order these in sufficient quantities bearing in mind lead times.

Tyenne (tocilizumab): Updated information on SC supply will soon be issued. Homecare delivery schedules have now reverted to normal and further switching may soon become possible. Further updates will be provided via SPS procurement teams. The supply position for IV is being reviewed regularly and when further switching is possible further comms will be issued.

Savene (dexrazoxane): Supply will be constrained into February 2025. SPS procurement teams are asking Trusts to confirm stock levels to assess the potential for support by mutual aid.

Terrosa (teriparatide): There are ongoing supply issues. MPSC are working with homecare leads, providers and alternative suppliers to manage the issue.

SUPPLY ISSUES RESOURCES

SPS procurement have recently published a new resource on the SPS website to help Trust procurement teams navigate their way through suspected supply issue.

These resources can be accessed at [the SPS page Navigating a potential supply issue Procurement Guidance](#)

Navigating potential supply issues

Stock Management

- check stock across all hospital locations
- correct any discrepancies in pharmacy stock control system
- check if alternative strength, form can be supplied from local stock

Wholesalers

- contact customer services or account manager
 - could be a restocking issue
- check websites
 - non-contracted alternatives
 - consider search by brand names
 - consider search by GTIN, EAN or PIP codes
- check retail wholesalers e.g. Sigma
- check if available direct from Alloga or Movianto

Central Resources

- Medicines Supply Tool (SPS)
- MPSC Supply Issues report (contracted lines only)

Manufacturers

- check pharma company websites, some publish supporting information on their pages
- contact customer services at pharma company to ascertain
 - their stock position
 - resupply position
 - depot restocking schedule
 - is supply available direct from manufacturer

Final options

- check Vend on Rx-Info
- check for parallel imports
- check on dm+d browser

If resupply date at wholesaler will result in a zero stock position you may need to consider:

- sourcing a commercial special*
- check Pro-File for alternatives*
- check with importers*

* Escalate to Regional Team if sourcing unlicensed medicine

Escalation to SPS procurement team

Follow local pharmacy procedures in communicating and managing supply issues

Contact your Regional SPS Procurement Team

Provide key information including:

- name, form, strength

Share any intel gathered to date such as

- checked on Medicines Supply Tool (SPS), MPSC Supply Issues report
- wholesaler depot
- any resupply information suggested and source
- urgency of request

Contact details:

See page

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.