



## • EU exit & Drug Shortages

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has contingency plans in preparation for the scenario of a “no deal” EU exit (Brexit) e.g. during the transitional period it has been arranged that pharmaceutical companies will stock, at the minimum, 6 weeks additional supply of drugs. Prescribers are reminded that normal prescribing patterns should continue during the lead-up to the UK planned exit of the EU i.e. do not prescribe extra stock for patients due to concerns about Brexit.

The GP Portal contains all DHSC advice on stock issues. Another useful resource is the MIMS Drug Shortages Tracker <https://www.mims.co.uk/shortages> (the link is also on the Primary Care Portal) which has tables advising on how long a shortage is expected to last and those that have been resolved. You need to be registered to use the tracker, registration is free.

With respect to the current availability issues with many HRT products, the British Menopause Society has produced an update on the current availability of HRT products <https://thebms.org.uk/2019/08/british-menopause-society-update-on-hrt-supply-shortages/>. They have also produced guidance on alternative preparations that can be prescribed and link to an interactive flowchart to support decision on the making Menopause Matters website [link](#). Links are also available on the “medication out of stock section” of the Primary Care Portal.

## • Practice Based Pharmacist Group

With the ever increasing number of Practice Based Pharmacists the CCGs’ Medicines Management Team has set up a group to share best practice and ideas for developing the role. So far two meetings have been held and these have been very well received. The plan is to hold a meeting once a quarter, with the next one scheduled for **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September (12.30-2pm at Francis Crick House)**. An email group has also been set up to support inter-meeting discussion. So that any newly employed Practice Pharmacists can be included in the group and added to the distribution list for this newsletter and other relevant information, the pharmacist’s name, email address and details of the practices they will be working in should be emailed to [susan.barron@nhs.net](mailto:susan.barron@nhs.net).

## • Prescribing of Specialist Infant Formula

The local Guidelines for Specialist Infant Formula (available on the Primary Care Portal and attached) advises that “Extensively hydrolysed formula” should be prescribed for infants with mild to moderate symptoms of Cow’s Milk Protein Allergy (CMPA) e.g.

### • Infants less than 6 months of age initiate with:

- o SMA Althera (whey based, contains lactose).
- o Similac Alimentum (casein based, no lactose) – preferred choice if concern with lactose in diet.

### • Infants more than 6 months of age initiate with:

- o Milupa Aptamil Pepti 2 (whey based, contains lactose).
- o Nutramigen 2 with LGG (casein based, no lactose) - preferred choice if concern with lactose in diet.

Amino acid formulae e.g. SMA Alfamino should be reserved for patients with severe symptoms. The prescribing data indicates that the significantly more expensive amino acid formulations are being routinely prescribed for patients with mild to moderate symptoms. Clinicians are encouraged to consult the local Guidelines for Specialist Infant Formula when dealing with patients with suspected Cow’s Milk Protein Allergy (CMPA), Lactose Intolerance or Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disorder (GORD).

This edition is also available on GP Portal via the following link  
<http://gp.nenecg.nhs.uk/> and <http://gp.corbyccg.nhs.uk/>

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