



- **Patient information on continuity of medicine supply if there is a no-deal EU Exit**

The information for patients on [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) around continuity of medicines supply if there is a no-deal EU exit has been updated. The [FAQ](#) for clinicians on the NHS England website has also been updated. These updates explain the government's multi-layered approach to ensure that medicines continue to be available if there is a no-deal EU exit.

- **Drug Safety Update**

GP practices and all healthcare professionals are all encouraged to register and subscribe for the Drug Safety Update via e-mail [link](#). It is good practice to discuss Drug Safety Update with colleagues and at local medicines meetings.

- **Emis print-out of "third party" apps**

When patients request access to online services or request a new password from their GP Practice using Emis, an additional list of NHS-approved third party apps/services which "can" order repeat medication is also printed. This is an issue as a number of concerns have been raised about "third party" apps, including "NHS approved" ones, which enable patients to order their medication (see accompanying Tablet Press Extra on "Third Party Medication Ordering Apps").

As it is understood that Practices are unable to amend the list, it is recommended that they circle the Patient Access website and accompanying login details, put a line through the other third party addresses and advise patients who are keen to order their medication electronically to use the GP online ordering system (Patient Access) or NHS app (available via Google Play and the Apple app stores) which link directly to their patient record. The Medicines Management Team has escalated the concern about Practices not being able to amend this list.

- **Patient Resources for inhaler devices**

The Corby and Nene CCGs' public facing websites now contain videos and leaflets for all inhaler devices. [Nene Website](#) [Corby Website](#)

- **Update on the prescribing of OTC medication for minor conditions**

In March 2018 NHS England issued guidance to CCGs recommending that items of medication available "over the counter" from pharmacies etc. should not be routinely prescribed for 23 minor conditions. The Northamptonshire CCGs subsequently agreed that the guidance should be implemented locally as it was hoped that this would help promote "self-care" and the use of community pharmacies, as well as reducing prescribing expenditure. To facilitate implementation of this change the Medicines Management Team produced posters, texts and reception room videos in order to make patients aware that OTC items for minor conditions would no longer be routinely prescribed. Support materials for patients, including condition specific information leaflets, were also made available within the "self-care" section on the CCGs' websites.

During 2018/19, when this "change" was being introduced, approximately 70,000 (5%) fewer items of OTC drugs were prescribed resulting in a decrease in expenditure of £143K. The outcomes during 2019/20 have been even better with patients and health care professionals becoming familiar with the change in practice. During the first 4 months of 2019/20 almost 80,000 (20%) fewer OTC drugs have been prescribed which has resulted in a decrease in expenditure of ~£250K. This significant reduction in prescribing of OTC items since April 2018 means that more patients are choosing to "self-care" rather than make appointments with their GP for minor conditions and this will have improved access to appointments for patients with more serious illnesses.

GP practices have highlighted that on occasions they are asked to prescribe items of "OTC" medication by parents as they have been informed by their children's school that they will only administer medication if it has been prescribed. Please be aware a letter has been sent to all schools and nurseries informing them that this is not necessary. A copy of the letter is available for reference within the "self-care practice resource" part of the medicines management section on the Primary Care Portal

This edition is also available on GP Portal

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