

### In This Issue

- ⊕ **Priadel<sup>®</sup> brand will remain in stock**
- ⊕ **Bricanyl<sup>®</sup> DPI: Ensure Correct Product is Prescribed and Coded**
- ⊕ **Hospital Supplied Specialist Medicines now on NIECR**
- ⊕ **NICE Guidance — Northern Ireland Service Notifications**
- ⊕ **Managed Entry Decisions**

## Priadel<sup>®</sup> brand will remain in stock

HSCB Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team would like to remind healthcare professionals of the updated [Supply Disruption Alert](#) (SDA), issued on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, to advise that Essential Pharma has reversed the decision to discontinue Priadel<sup>®</sup> 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK.

Essential Pharma have committed that they will continue to supply Priadel<sup>®</sup> for a minimum of five years to the UK market. **Therefore there is no longer a need to implement widespread switching of patients from Priadel<sup>®</sup> tablets to an alternative lithium carbonate preparation.**

Trust representatives in Northern Ireland have advised that **they will not be continuing with the planned switch campaign** from Priadel<sup>®</sup> tablets to alternative lithium carbonate preparations and will be initiating new patients on Priadel<sup>®</sup> as per previous practice.

The SDA also advises that ordering quotas for Priadel<sup>®</sup> tablets will remain in place across wholesalers (based on historic demand) for the foreseeable future to ensure that supplies continue to be available for all patients.

### ACTIONS:

- Healthcare professionals are asked to reassure patients that it is not necessary to switch from their Priadel<sup>®</sup> tablets to an alternative lithium carbonate preparation at this time, as there are no plans to discontinue Priadel<sup>®</sup> tablets.
- Practices are reminded that **lithium monitoring results for patients on pathway 2 should be shared with the Trust** as per [Lithium Care Pathway](#) (page 9 of link). In addition to maximising patient care, this regular communication will be particularly important in assisting patient identification should any product availability issues arise in future.

## Bricanyl<sup>®</sup> DPI: Ensure Correct Product is Prescribed and Coded

Terbutaline 500 (Bricanyl<sup>®</sup>) micrograms dry powder inhaler (DPI) is listed in each GP clinical system as **120 dose** inhaler (as defined by the drug and medicines dictionary (dm+d)).

Routine audit within BSO payment system has detailed that a number of GP practices are issuing prescriptions for terbutaline (Bricanyl<sup>®</sup>) 500 micrograms/dose DPI **100 dose**; this product doesn't exist and therefore this is an error. Practices will be aware that there have been a number of safety documents issued in relation to the over-use of SABA inhalers<sup>1</sup>; prescribing terbutaline (Bricanyl<sup>®</sup>) 500 micrograms/dose DPI incorrectly will mean that dosages that patients are using will be under-estimated. Prescribing these inhalers incorrectly also delays payment processes at BSO for community pharmacists

### ACTIONS:

- GP practices are asked to search for patients who have been prescribed terbutaline (Bricanyl<sup>®</sup>) 500 micrograms/dose DPI within the last 6 months and ensure that the product prescribed is for 120 doses. If not, please amend to the correct product as per GP clinical system.
- If prescriptions are presented to community pharmacies for terbutaline (Bricanyl<sup>®</sup>) 500 micrograms/dose DPI in quantity other than 120 doses, please return to GP practice for amendment.
- Pharmacies should be code these inhalers over the number of doses, i.e. **120 doses**, not the number of inhalers. Always refer to the [BSO Pharmaceutical Code book](#) when coding prescriptions.

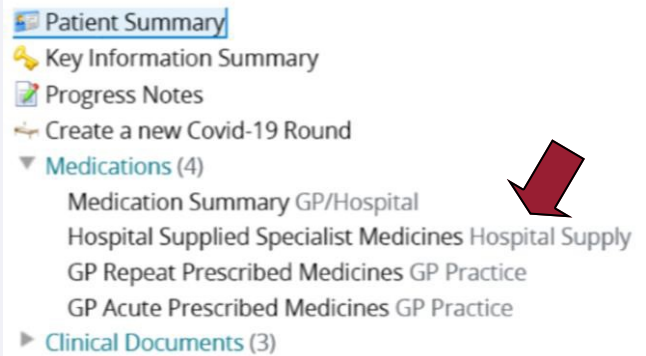
# Hospital Supplied Specialist Medicines now on NIECR

Until now, the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR) has only displayed medicines prescribed by GPs (repeats and acutes). However, GP systems do not include records of specialist medicines that are prescribed and dispensed in hospitals.

From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020, NIECR will begin to display records of specialist medicines dispensed by hospitals (i.e. Red or Amber list medicines, as per the [IPNSM website](#)). These will be displayed under a new heading 'Hospital Supplied Specialist Medicines *Hospital Supply*' and will also be included alongside GP records in the 'Medication Summary GP/Hospital' pdf.

This will support medicines reconciliation and prescribing decisions on existing or new medicines by allowing users to see any specialist medicines that have been dispensed to that patient.

**Note:** Limitations to NIECR exist. For instance, medications displayed that have been discontinued for a patient will continue to display on NIECR for a period of time for information; not all specialist medicines will be included within ECR, e.g. IV chemotherapy, HIV treatments, some fertility treatments will not be displayed on ECR. Therefore medicines information displayed in NIECR should be viewed as one source and must be checked with a second source to confirm current patient medications.



## WHAT WILL THIS MEAN IN PRACTICE?

- This new section can be used as another resource within NIECR when undertaking medicines reconciliation as a patient moves between primary and secondary care sectors.
- It can also provide useful information on any specialist medicines, dispensed to a patient by a trust, in case of queries.

## ACTIONS:

- It is still important to record all specialist medicines prescribed and supplied by secondary care on the repeat prescribing screen on the GP clinical system; **indicate clearly on the record that these should not be prescribed or dispensed**. This will ensure:
  - ⇒ GPs/other healthcare professionals in the practice have access to a complete medication list for each patient
  - ⇒ Interactions are flagged up between specialist medicines and any medicines prescribed in primary care
  - ⇒ Specialist medicines will be included on medication histories requested and forwarded to secondary care.

## UPDATED: Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) for Common Infections

TARGET resources have been updated to include advice on managing infections during the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources can be accessed through the [Primary Care intranet](#) or [RCGP website](#). They include self care advice for patients on managing common infections, thereby potentially reducing inappropriate antibiotic use. The respiratory tract PIL has also been updated to help patients manage self-limiting respiratory tract infections.

## NICE GUIDANCE — NI SERVICE NOTIFICATIONS

Service Notifications have been issued in Northern Ireland for the following:

[NICE TA656](#) — Siponimod for treating secondary progressive multiple sclerosis

[NICE TA658](#) — Isatuximab with pomalidomide and dexamethasone for treating relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma.

[NICE TA659](#) — Galcanezumab for preventing migraine

## MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| • Liraglutide (Saxenda <sup>®</sup> )   | • Isatuximab (Sarclisa <sup>®</sup> )    | • Daratumumab (Darzalex <sup>®</sup> ) x 2 entries |
| • Siponimod (Mayzent <sup>®</sup> )     | • Volanesorsen (Waylivra <sup>®</sup> )  | • Carfilzomib (Kyprolis <sup>®</sup> )             |
| • Galcanezumab (Emgality <sup>®</sup> ) | • Nivolumab (Opdivo <sup>®</sup> )       | • Lenalidomide (Revlimid <sup>®</sup> )            |
| • Osimertinib (Tagrisso <sup>®</sup> )  | • Pembrolizumab (Keytruda <sup>®</sup> ) | • Ibrutinib (Imbruvica <sup>®</sup> )              |
| • Tafamidis (Vyndaqel <sup>®</sup> )    |  | • Darolutamide (Nubeqa <sup>®</sup> )              |

For full details see [Managed Entry section](#) of NI Formulary website.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year



This newsletter has been produced for GPs and pharmacists by the Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents of this newsletter, please contact one of the Pharmacy

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