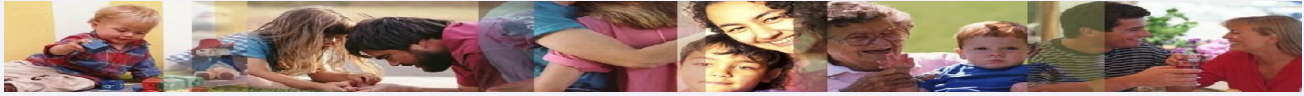


## NEWSLETTER



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## Problems accessing the NI Formulary website?

GP Practices have reported problems accessing the NI Formulary website from their practice computers. This is due to an unforeseen issue regarding browser compatibility. Internet Explorer 11 (IE11) must be set as the default browser in order to access CCG and ECR. However, the formulary website needs to be accessed through the Microsoft Edge browser. Work is ongoing with suppliers to have CCG and ECR updated to work with Edge but it will be some time before this work is complete and in the meantime we have an interim solution.

Unfortunately it cannot be rolled out automatically and needs to be set up on each PC that needs to access the formulary. **The instructions are straightforward and easy to follow and can be accessed [here](#).**

We apologise for the inconvenience but would ask practices to follow these instructions to ensure access to this valuable resource.



### Action for GP Practices

- Please follow these [instructions](#) to ensure access to the NI Formulary from all relevant PCs in the practice.

## Addition to Limited Evidence list: Aliskiren

Aliskiren has been added to the [Limited Evidence list](#). Products on this list must not be routinely prescribed and should be reviewed to ensure that they are used only in the approved circumstances.

NICE does not recommend the use of aliskiren due to insufficient evidence of its effectiveness in resistant hypertension. In addition, the [MHRA](#) has reported on a risk of adverse outcomes (hypotension, syncope, stroke, hyperkalaemia and change in renal function including acute renal failure) when aliskiren is combined with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II receptor blockers, especially in patients with diabetes and those with impaired renal function. Aliskiren should therefore only be used if initiated and under review by secondary care.

### Action for GP practices:

- Aliskiren should only be initiated under hospital or specialist supervision; no new patients should be initiated on aliskiren in primary care.
- Please review patients on aliskiren to make sure they are under review by secondary care.

## Virtual Pain Self Management Courses

Virtual self management courses are ever more vital during lockdown. There are two courses running weekly from April to June 2021:

1. **Living well online**
2. **Challenging Pain** (Belfast Trust only)

Health Professionals / Community / Voluntary providers can refer patients or patients can self refer:

- Complete the [online referral form](#) or alternatively you scan the QR Code (for HC professionals referrals) or
- Phone the training team on 028 9078 2940 or
- Email [Y.knipe@versusarthritis.org](mailto:Y.knipe@versusarthritis.org)



There is also a **1:1 outreach service** for clients who would prefer this option. This is for people with arthritis and/or other long term health conditions and can be accessed by contacting [i.carlisle@versusarthritis.org](mailto:i.carlisle@versusarthritis.org).

**Managing your Pain** and **Managing the Challenge** courses are available to people in the [WHSC](#) area.

## New Models Of Prescribing: Implementation of pilot projects

New Models of Prescribing (NMOP) is a transformation programme to enable medical and non-medical prescribers, working at the interface, to prescribe directly to patients, via HS21 prescriptions. This should improve access to medicines, reduce unnecessary duplication and allow prescribers to issue prescriptions in the following circumstances:

- Urgent items that need to be commenced within 72 hours and within the prescriber's usual scope of practice, e.g. potassium supplements or diuretics in heart failure (HF) patients or antibiotics in COPD patients.
- Short supplies of medicines that require review, titration, tapering by interface prescriber prior to recommendation for longer term suitability, e.g. ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor antagonists.
- Specialist items that are outside the clinical expertise of a GP, e.g. lymphoedema garments.

Two pilot projects have commenced to test the prescription process and governance frameworks required for successful roll-out of NMOP:

1. **Physiotherapist prescribing** (Southern and South Eastern Trust areas). This will focus on musculoskeletal, respiratory, lymphoedema and orthopaedic (ICATS) prescribing in the outpatient and community settings.
2. **Heart Failure Nurse Specialist (HFNS) prescribing** (Belfast, Northern and Western Trust areas). This will focus on prescribing in the outpatient and community settings.

The Physiotherapist prescribing pilot went live in November 2020 and the HFNS pilot commenced in January 2021. Data collection will continue until end of June 2021. Prescribers will inform the patient's GP of any medicines prescribed and monitoring arrangements (via Electronic Document Transfer (EDT)). While each of the pilot projects is confined to specific Trust areas, it should be noted that patients may take their prescription for dispensing to a pharmacy outside of these jurisdictions. Further pilots will test dietetic led ordering of oral nutritional supplements in a small number of care homes and prescribing by mental health Home Treatment Teams is also being developed and will be the subject of a later newsletter article.

### Actions for GP practices

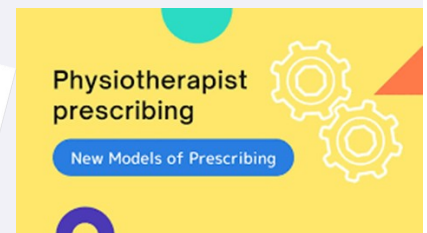
- Reconcile medicines and update patient's clinical record based upon receipt of communication via EDT.

### Action for Community Pharmacists

- If you have any clinical queries, contact the prescriber using the telephone number annotated at the bottom of the prescription.

**Note:** all prescriptions will be handwritten.

Further information on the projects is available by contacting [james.mcauley@hscni.net](mailto:james.mcauley@hscni.net).



## New addition to Osteoporosis Section of NI Formulary

Two new calcium and vitamin D products, **Accrete D3<sup>®</sup>** (twice daily formulation) and **Accrete D3<sup>®</sup> One a Day** have been added to the [osteoporosis section](#) of the Northern Ireland Formulary. **Accrete D3<sup>®</sup>**, **Accrete D3<sup>®</sup> One a Day** and **Adcal-D3<sup>®</sup> Caplets** are first line choices for calcium and vitamin D.

These products, along with the other calcium and vitamin D formulary choices, can be used as supplementation to help reduce the risk of fractures occurring in patients or in those who have suffered previous fractures.

### NICE GUIDANCE — NI SERVICE NOTIFICATIONS

No new Service Notifications have been issued in Northern Ireland this month.

### MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

No new Managed Entry decisions this month.

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

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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