

NEWSLETTER



In This Issue

- ⊕ **NI Formulary Correction — Thorens[®] vitamin D 10,000IU/ml drops**
- ⊕ **COMPASS survey**
- ⊕ **Helping patients waiting for joint replacement surgery**
- ⊕ **Musculoskeletal Decision support tools**
- ⊕ **Improving Medicines and Polypharmacy Appropriateness Clinical Tool (IMPACT)**
- ⊕ **NICE Guidance (Recently Published)**
- ⊕ **Managed Entry Decisions**

Northern Ireland Formulary Correction — Thorens[®] vitamin D 10,000IU/ml drops

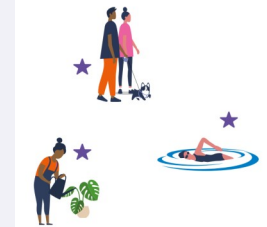
The columns in the table of [Licensed Vitamin D Preparations](#) were not sufficiently spaced, which resulted in the 800 IU dose for Thorens[®] vitamin D 10,000 IU/ml oral drops looking like '14 drops' rather than '4 drops' daily. This has since been corrected on the website. GP practices are asked to check if they have patients on this product to ensure that the dose is correct.

COMPASS Survey for Non-Medical Prescribers – We value your feedback!

SPPG are carrying out a survey on the usefulness of the practice's and individual prescriber's COMPASS reports to Non-Medical Prescribers working in General Practice. Please encourage nurse, pharmacist and physiotherapist prescribers to complete asap. **Please click [HERE](#) to access the survey.**

Helping patients waiting for joint replacement surgery

[NICE](#) only recommend opioids in chronic pain in limited situations. Anecdotal feedback suggests that some long-term / high-dose opioid use is driven by prescribers wanting to help patients waiting significant times for joint replacement, consequently continuing opioids inappropriately or increasing doses without evidence of improvement. Long-term opioids may help about 10% of patients (usually intermittent use at a low dose). Therefore 90% may be exposed to harm from long-term adverse-effects, including endocrine and immune system changes, without benefit.



So what else can prescribers do? Patient education on chronic pain is very important, including the key role non-pharmacological strategies play. Versus Arthritis produce a range of resources to help people living with chronic pain (non-malignant), including those waiting for surgery.

Signpost patients to [Versus Arthritis](#) resources:

Let's Move for Surgery Toolkit

[Let's Move for Surgery Toolkit | Versus Arthritis.](#)

This contains:

- physical activity resources for people waiting for or recovering from joint replacement surgery
- a series of tailor-made, follow-along exercise videos for hip, shoulder and knee
- full body workouts to help overall fitness
- personal stories and advice from those living with arthritis who have been through or are awaiting joint replacement surgery
- tips on keeping active from a physiotherapist

The videos and supporting booklet are available for anyone to access on the [Versus Arthritis website](#).

Exercising with Arthritis webpage

[Exercising with arthritis | Top tips, specific exercises \(versusarthritis.org\)](#)

This contains:

- a range of advice to help people with arthritis to get started with exercise, set activity goals, plus other movement and stretching videos.
- information about why exercise is important, how much and what type of exercise they should do, the importance of personal activity goals to keep motivated and resources to support patients to get active in a way that works for them.

Versus Arthritis [Self-management courses](#)

- Additional resources: [Physical activity resources](#), [Keele Self-management resources](#), [Versus Arthritis helpline](#).



Musculoskeletal Decision Support Tools

Musculoskeletal Decision Support Tools

produced by Versus Arthritis are designed to support consultations between people and their healthcare professionals. They encourage people to think about what types of support they need to help them with their musculoskeletal health problem.

People can use these to prepare for appointments, during appointments, or both.

Each tool sets out the treatment options for that condition and summarises what is known about the potential benefits and risks of each option. They are intended to facilitate discussion, not to guide people towards a particular option.

Versus Arthritis Decision Support Tools

- [Making decisions about my back pain: primary care and self-care](#)
- [Making decisions about my back pain: thinking about a referral](#)
- [Making decisions about my shoulder pain: primary care and self-care](#)
- [Making decisions about my shoulder pain: thinking about a referral](#)
- [Making decisions about my hip pain: primary care and self-care](#)
- [Making decisions about my hip pain: thinking about a referral](#)
- [Making decisions about my knee pain: primary care and self-care](#)
- [Making decisions about my knee pain: thinking about a referral](#)

Improving Medicines and Polypharmacy Appropriateness Clinical Tool (IMPACT)

PrescQIPP Bulletin 268

GP practices have access to PrescQIPP through SPPG's subscription to the site. A new PrescQIPP resource published in April 2023 is the [IMPACT bulletin and tool](#) which helps prioritise deprescribing decisions in patients taking several drugs which could be stopped.

This tool identifies clinical and deprescribing priorities with recommendations for appropriately continuing or stopping medicines. Links to PrescQIPP deprescribing algorithms are included where available and the tool is regularly updated as new algorithms become available.

The bulletin is comprehensive, covering all therapeutic areas. However it is easy to navigate, as the contents are hyperlinked, enabling you to jump straight to the drug you are interested in.

There is also the facility to produce individual patient deprescribing plans through the visual data pack, by filtering for specific BNF chapters and drugs (note: disregard the geographical drop down lists as these do not include NI data).

The tool highlights the:

- **Clinical risk** versus benefit of continuing therapy (based on usual maintenance doses)
- **Deprescribing priority** of each medicine group (high, medium, low)
- Links to deprescribing support tools and guidance.

Endocrine system	40	Anaesthesia	56
Anti-hyperglycaemics	40	Lidocaine plasters	56
Bisphosphonates	41	Pain medications - other	56
Liothyronine	42	Wound management	
Oestrogens ± progestogens	42	Dressings	57
Other osteoporosis medications	42	Miscellaneous	
Drugs for urinary retention	43	Complementary therapies, herbal supplements, homeopathy	58
Obstetrics, gynaecology and urinary tract		Probiotics	58
Drugs used for urinary frequency, urgency and incontinence	44	References	
Finasteride or dutasteride	45	References	59
Multimorbidity and immunosuppression			
Cytotoxics, immunosuppressants	46		
Nutrition and blood			
Calcium + vitamin D	47		
Lutein and antioxidant vitamins	47		
Sip feeds	47		
Sodium, potassium and iron supplements	47		
Vitamins	48		
Musculoskeletal and joint diseases			
Cannabis based medicinal products	49		
DMARDs	49		
Glucosamine	49		
NSAIDs	50		
Allopurinol or febuxostat	51		
Quinine	51		
Rubefacients	52		
Skeletal muscle relaxants	52		
Eye, ear, nose and oropharynx/skin			
Eye drops/ointments	53		
Ear/nose/throat drops, sprays, solutions	53		
Eye drops for glaucoma	54		
Antimicrobial creams, ointments	54		
Corticosteroids - topical	55		
Eflornithine	55		

Contents	
Gastrointestinal system	
Antispasmodics	5
H2 blockers/PPIs	6
Infantile colic products	7
Laxatives	7
Loperamide	7
Cardiovascular system	
Aldosterone antagonists/mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists	8
Antianginals	9
Antiarrhythmics	9
Anticoagulants - oral and injected	10
Antihypertensives	11
ACE inhibitors	13
Alpha 1 blockers	13
Central alpha blockers	13
Angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARB)	13
Beta blockers	13
Calcium channel blockers	14
Diuretics	14
Antiplatelets	15
Aspirin - low dose	16
Digoxin	17
Fibrates	17
Nitrates	18
Omega 3 fatty acid supplements	18
Icosapent ethyl	18
Other lipid lowering agents	19
Peripheral vasodilators	19
Respiratory system	
Statins	20
Antihistamines	21
Antimuscarinics - inhaled	22
Corticosteroids - inhaled	23
Corticosteroids - oral	24
Cough and cold remedies	25
Theophylline	25
Central nervous system	
Analgesics - non opioid	26
Analgesics - opioid	27
Antidepressants	29
Anti-epileptic drugs	30
Antipsychotics	31
Barbiturates	32
Benzodiazepines and other hypnotics (including Z' drugs)	33
Chloral hydrate	35
Dementia drugs	35
Drugs used in nausea and vertigo	36
Drugs used in Parkinson's disease	37
Infections	
Antibacterials - oral	38
Antifungals - oral	39

When registering as a new member of PrescQIPP, select 'Department of Health Northern Ireland' as your organisation to ensure access to all resources.

NICE GUIDANCE — RECENTLY PUBLISHED

[NICE TA880](#) — Tezepelumab for treating severe asthma
[NICE TA882](#) — Voclosporin with mycophenolate mofetil for treating lupus nephritis

Not recommended:

[NICE TA881](#) — Ripretinib for treating advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumour after 3 or more treatments
[NICE TA883](#) — Tafasitamab with lenalidomide for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

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

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®) | • tocilizumab (RoActemra) | • Tafasitamab (Minjuvi®) |
| • Casirivimab/imdevimab (Ronapreve®), nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid®), sotrovimab (Xevudy®) and | • Tezepelumab (Tezspire®) | • Ripretinib (Quinlock®) |
| | • Voclosporin (Lupkynis®) | • Asfotase alfa (Strensiq®) |
| | • Fampridine (Fampyra®) | • Difelikefalin (Kapruvia®) |

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, please contact one of the [Pharmacy Advisers](#)

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