

NORTHERN IRELAND MEDICINES MANAGEMENT Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 9

September 2024

Sumatriptan injections: selecting the correct product

There are currently three sumatriptan 6mg/0.5ml strength injectable products available. Due to similar generic names and descriptions, the incorrect version may end up on repeat prescription:


 Image by [freepik](#)

Product	Price (DT Sep 2024)
Sumatriptan 6mg/0.5ml solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two 2 pre-filled disposable pen injections does NOT need separate device/refills 	£52.24
Imigran® Subject 6mg/0.5ml <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an injection device (with REUSABLE PEN) plus cartridge pack (two pre-filled syringes) one-off script to start treatment - future scripts should be for REFILL PACK (see below) device should not be on repeat but replace intermittently 	£50.96
Imigran® Subject 6mg/0.5ml solution for injection syringe REFILL PACK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 pre-filled syringes to insert into above autoinjector REUSABLE PEN device 	£48.49

Action for GP practices:

- If a patient is using the Imigran® Subject 6mg/0.5mls **reusable pen device**, please ensure that the Imigran® Subject 6mg/0.5ml solution for injection syringe **REFILL PACK** is put onto repeat, not the actual device

Action for community pharmacists:

- Clarify with patients what they are expecting when dispensing these products. Follow up any discrepancies from the prescription with the prescriber

**Whichever system is used, please ensure patients are able to use it appropriately. See product [SPCs](#) and [PILs](#).

In this issue

- Sumatriptan injections: selecting the correct product
- Regional HSC mental health campaign
- NICE Guidance
- Managed Entry Decisions
- Penicillin Allergy Awareness and Checklist - NI Rollout
- Deprescribe: Bladder antimuscarinics Treatment break (drug holiday)

NICE Guidance

Recently published:

- [NICE TA996](#) — Linzagolix for treating moderate to severe symptoms of uterine fibroids
- [NICE TA998](#) — Risankizumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
- [NICE TA999](#) — Vibegron for treating symptoms of overactive bladder syndrome
- [NICE TA1000](#) — Iptacopan for treating paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria
- [NICE TA1001](#) — Zanubrutinib for treating marginal zone lymphoma after anti-CD20-based treatment
- [NICE TA1002](#) — Evinacumab for treating homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia in people 12 years and over

Regional HSC mental health campaign

Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health and Social Care (HSC) organisations have launched this year's HSC mental health and emotional wellbeing campaign urging people to prioritise workplace mental health.

Between World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September) and World Mental Health Day (10 October), the five Trusts, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) and PHA are encouraging people to take 10 minutes for mental health self-care using the 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing'.

The 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing' are: Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give.

More information is available at www.mindingyourhead.info.



Managed Entry Decisions

Full details [here](#)

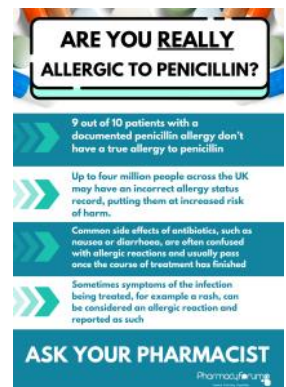
- Latanoprost–netarsudil eye drops (Roclanda®)
- Linzagolix (Yselty®)
- Vibegron (Obgemsa®)
- Fezolinetant (Veoza®)
- Elranatamab (Elrexfio®)
- Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®)
- Ruxolitinib (Opzelura®)
- Trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu®)
- Lenacapavir (Sunlenca®)

Penicillin Allergy Awareness and Checklist - NI Rollout

The Pharmacy Forum NI will be endorsing the new [Penicillin Allergy Checklist](#) for pharmacists and other medical professionals rolling them out NI-wide in the week beginning 23rd September. The checklist will help pharmacists and other healthcare professionals to diagnose if a patient is allergic to penicillin or not.

In September of last year, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS – responsible for England, Scotland, and Wales) rolled out the new Penicillin Allergy Guidelines and brought media attention to the findings that over 90% of those labelled with a 'penicillin allergy' may not be allergic at all.

See [Pharmacy Forum NI's](#) website for further information.



Deprescribe: Bladder antimuscarinics Treatment break (drug holiday)

Regular reviews of overactive bladder (OAB) medication are recommended by NICE ([NG123](#) and [CKS LUTS in men](#)). This helps to determine if treatment is working, if the symptoms have resolved or if harms outweigh benefits.

Recommendations include to:

- Offer a review to men or women who remain on long-term medicine for OAB or urinary incontinence every 12 months, or every 6 months if they are aged over 75.
- Offer a treatment break through shared decision making for a maximum of 4 weeks after 6 months of treatment.

The potential for harm increases with age and frailty. When undertaking review of treatment, stop medicines if there is no absolute need or switch to a medicine with a lower anticholinergic burden. Anticholinergic burden scales, e.g. [Aging Brain Care](#), can be used.

Alternative treatment options such as lifestyle interventions (reduction in caffeine / weight / fluid), pelvic floor muscle training and bladder training can be considered.

The key to success with any treatment break are **shared decision making** and **follow up**. Discuss patient goals, preferences and their experiences with their medicines. Discuss why the medicine should be stopped and how this will be done.

Resources and how to safely stop, discontinue or withdraw a medicine are available at [PrescQIPP](#).



Advantages of treatment breaks from bladder antimuscarinics:

- Can assess effectiveness
- Reduced side effects
- Reduced anticholinergic burden
- Reduced risk of cognitive impairment
- Minimise risks
- Reduce risk of falls and all-cause mortality

Disadvantages of treatment breaks from bladder antimuscarinics:

- Possible relapse of symptoms

This newsletter has been produced for GP practices and community pharmacies 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](#).

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication. Throughout the newsletter, external links are provided to other sites. These links are provided to improve access to information and exist only for the convenience of readers of the Newsletter; SPPG cannot accept responsibility for their content. The SPPG does not necessarily endorse the views expressed within these external websites. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages. This newsletter is not to be used for commercial purposes.