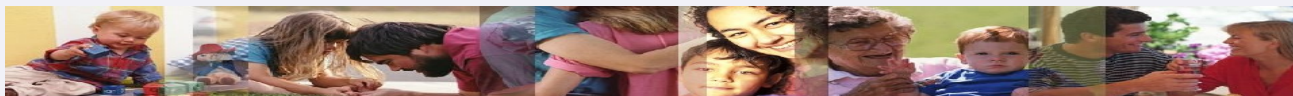


## NEWSLETTER



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## FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup>: Local Pathway

FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> is a new flash glucose monitoring technology. FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> sensors are now on the Northern Ireland Drug Tariff.

HSCB issued [correspondence](#) to community pharmacists and GPs on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 about FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup>. [Please refer to this for further guidance.](#)

A regional pathway for the managed entry of FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> in secondary care has now been agreed and [eligible patients](#) may receive FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> sensors on prescription.

FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> readers are not available on prescription but will be provided free of charge by Trusts for eligible patients.



### Community pharmacies — how to obtain stock of sensors:

- FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> sensors are not available to order via the usual wholesaler routes.
- Pharmacies can only order a supply of FreeStyle Libre<sup>®</sup> sensors directly from Abbott, at the following link: <https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>.
- The sensors will then be delivered via a courier company (UPS), directly to the pharmacy.

## When Should Patients Be Asked To Purchase Medicines OTC?

[Guidance](#) was issued last December from the Department of Health NI and the HSCB advising GPs not to prescribe medicines that can be purchased over-the-counter (OTC) by patients when they are being used to treat minor conditions or self-limiting illnesses.

OTC medicines supplied against a HS21 prescription cost the NHS in Northern Ireland nearly £10 million in 2016. Although some prescribing of OTC medicines is justified, the Health Service has a limited pot of money, and this money could be better spent on other medicines and services.

A list of conditions and examples of medicines that are readily available and should be bought OTC has been drawn up by DoH (NI) and HSCB and can be found at: <http://niformulary.hscni.net>.

Patients are encouraged to self care and seek advice from their local community pharmacist to help manage minor conditions and self-limiting illnesses.

**Action for GP practices:** the following read code should be used when self-care is recommended:

- **8CE (Self-help advice leaflet given).**



## New Resource: TARGET Antibiotic Toolkit

TARGET has recently been endorsed by the PHA and HSCB for use in Northern Ireland to complement our existing resources. TARGET is a very useful range of resources both for the patient and practice, hosted on the RCGP website ([www.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.rcgp.org.uk) > [Clinical > Clinical Toolkits](#)). This includes leaflets, posters, online CPD and audit tools. Some resources are now badged with the PHA logo and as they are reviewed more will be added. TARGET also produces an excellent newsletter which is well worth signing up to — simply email [TARGETAntibiotics@phe.gov.uk](mailto:TARGETAntibiotics@phe.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list.



**Action for GP practices:** the following read codes should be used when appropriate:

- **8BP0 (Deferred antibiotic therapy)**
- **8OA9 (Provision of written info about antibiotic therapy)**
- **8CAk (Patient advised to delay filling of prescription).**

## Reminder — NI Formulary Choice: Aspirin 75mg Dispersible Tablets

Prescribing data May to July 2017 indicates that only 28% of aspirin 75mg is prescribed as the dispersible formulation. The Northern Ireland (NI) Formulary recommends aspirin *dispersible* tablets as the first line antiplatelet therapy for secondary prevention after myocardial infarction.

There is no conclusive evidence that enteric-coated preparations of aspirin are better tolerated, therefore the enteric coated formulation is not recommended.

Dispersible tablets can be either dispersed in a glass of water or swallowed whole.

Formulation	Cost
Aspirin dispersible tablets 75mg x 28	£0.63
Aspirin gastro-resistant tablets 75mg x 28	£0.77
Aspirin tablets 75mg x 28	£1.12

Prices as per [Drug tariff](#), Nov 2017

**Action for practices:**

- Aspirin 75mg should be prescribed as the dispersible formulation; patients can be advised that there is no need to dissolve in water prior to usage.

## NICE GUIDANCE — NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE NOTIFICATIONS

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

[NICE TA448](#) — Etelcalcetide for treating secondary hyperparathyroidism

[NICE TA457](#) — Carfilzomib for previously treated multiple myeloma

[NICE TA458](#) — Trastuzumab emtansine for treating HER2 positive advanced breast cancer after trastuzumab and a taxane (review of TA371)

[NICE TA459](#) — Collagenase clostridium histolyticum for treating Dupuytren's

[NICE TA460](#) — Adalimumab and dexamethasone for treating non-infectious uveitis

[NICE TA462](#) — Nivolumab for treating relapsed or refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma

## MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

The following medicines were considered in December as part of the Northern Ireland Managed Entry process.

**Please refer to the Managed Entry section of the Northern Ireland Formulary website for full details on Managed Entry decisions:** <http://niformulary.hscni.net/ManagedEntry/MEDecisions/Pages/default.aspx>

Aflibercept (Eylea<sup>®</sup>)  
Atezolizumab (Tecentriq<sup>®</sup>)  
Cladribine (Mavenclad<sup>®</sup>)  
Ibrutinib (Imbruvica<sup>®</sup>)  
Maraviroc (Celsentri<sup>®</sup>)  
Midazolam (Epistatus<sup>®</sup>)

Nivolumab (Opdivo<sup>®</sup>)  
Regorafenib (Stivarga<sup>®</sup>)  
Tofacitinib (Xeljanz<sup>®</sup>)  
Venetoclax (Venclyxto<sup>®</sup>) - note: three Managed Entry decisions for this product  
Vismodegib (Erivedge<sup>®</sup>)

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

Advisors in your local HSCB office:

Belfast Office: 028 9536 3926

South Eastern Office: 028 9536 1461

Southern Office: 028 9536 2104

Northern Office: 028 9536 2845

Western Office: 028 9536 1010

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