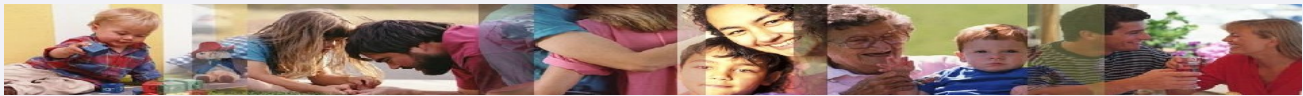


## NEWSLETTER



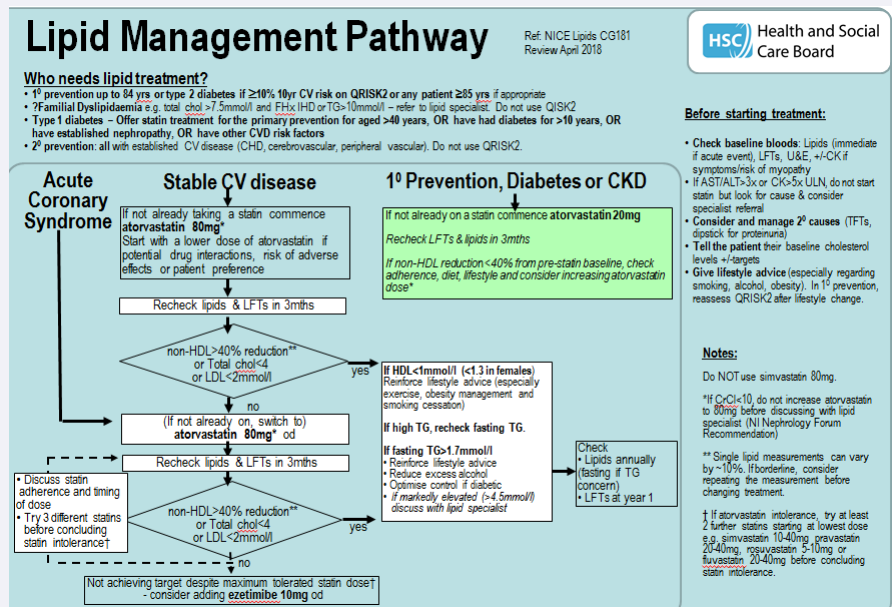
### In This Issue

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## HELPING TO PROMOTE BEST PRACTICE: LIPID MANAGEMENT PATHWAY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Each GP practice will have recently received copies of this regional guidance that has been implemented as a joint primary/secondary care pathway for Northern Ireland. The pathway is based on the updated recommendations from the NICE Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification [NICE CG181](#).

Many thanks to Dr Ian Menown, Dr Ian Young and Dr Maurice O' Kane for their invaluable input into the development of this document. All comments from each Trust have been incorporated into the pathway and it is hoped this will help streamline the approach in Northern Ireland to the management of lipids and adherence to best practice. It has also been supported by the regional nephrology forum.



### Actions for practices

The following actions will help implementation of this pathway:

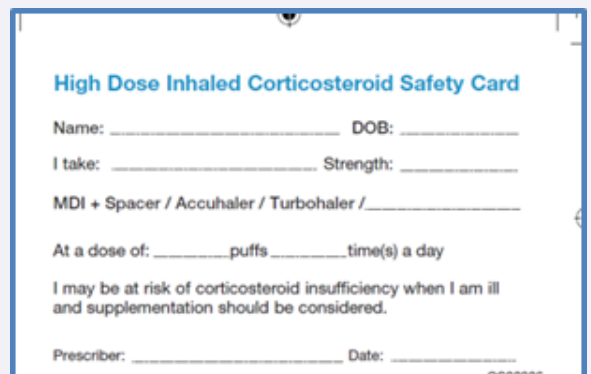
1. **Consider a review of omega-3 fatty acids** (the spend on Omacor<sup>®</sup> over the last 3 months can be found on page 5 of your most recent Compass report). There is a patient information leaflet (PIL) available and review tool to support this review.
2. **Carry out an ezetimibe review:** there is an updated review tool available to help identify patients that may be suitable for statin titration and/or ezetimibe discontinuation.
3. **Carry out a rosuvastatin review:** use of the updated review tool is now available to identify patients suitable for a switch to atorvastatin or those that need further cholesterol tests. Information on page 7 of your Compass report will give the practice position of ezetimibe and rosuvastatin relevant to other practices.
4. **Add any of these reviews to prescribing action plans** for the practice (NI Prescribing Support LES or MMPI scheme).
5. Please ensure that each GP, practice nurse and practice pharmacist within your practice involved in the treatment of cardiovascular or diabetic patients has a copy.

Electronic copies of this guideline, review tools and PILs are available under [Primary Care intranet](#) clinical resources. The pathway has also been added to the NI Formulary / lipid-regulating drugs ([section 2.12](#)). If you need additional supplies of the guideline or have any further queries, please contact your local HSCB Pharmacy Adviser (contact details on page 2).

## HIGH DOSE INHALED CORTICOSTEROID SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ADULTS

Each GP practice will have recently received hand-held patient cards, patient information leaflets (PILs) and laminated guidance for healthcare professionals to promote the safer prescribing of high dose inhaled corticosteroids in **adults**.

The cards and PILs are designed to make it easier to follow the Committee on the Safety of Medicines advice that “*steroid treatment cards should be routinely provided for patients (or their carers) who require prolonged treatment with high doses of inhaled steroids*”.



The image shows a sample of the 'High Dose Inhaled Corticosteroid Safety Card'. It is a white card with a blue border and contains the following fields and text:

- High Dose Inhaled Corticosteroid Safety Card**
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_
- I take: \_\_\_\_\_ Strength: \_\_\_\_\_
- MDI + Spacer / Accuhaler / Turbohaler / \_\_\_\_\_
- At a dose of: \_\_\_\_\_ puffs \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) a day
- I may be at risk of corticosteroid insufficiency when I am ill and supplementation should be considered.
- Prescriber: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Details about the cards and the background to their development can be found in the cover letter sent to GP practices and community pharmacies - [http://primarycare.hscni.net/pdf/ICS-cards-letter\\_final\\_June\\_2016.pdf](http://primarycare.hscni.net/pdf/ICS-cards-letter_final_June_2016.pdf). Practices needing further supplies are able to re-order the safety cards and patient information leaflets by emailing BSO at: [pharmacystationeryorders@hscni.net](mailto:pharmacystationeryorders@hscni.net)

## NICE GUIDANCE — NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE NOTIFICATIONS

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

[NICE TA384](#) — Nivolumab for treating advanced (unresectable or metastatic) melanoma.

[NICE TA385](#) — Ezetimibe for treating primary heterozygous-familial and non-familial hypercholesterolaemia (review of TA132).

## MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

The following medicines were considered in July as part of the Northern Ireland Managed Entry process. **For details of the outcomes please refer to the Managed Entry section of the Northern Ireland Formulary website:**

<http://niformulary.hscni.net/ManagedEntry/MEDecisions/Pages/default.aspx>

Alirocumab (Praluent®)	Isavuconazole (Cresemba®)
Cabazitaxel (Jevtana®)	Naproxen 250mg effervescent tablets (Stirlescent®)
Evolocumab (Repatha®)	

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.

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Southern Office:	028 9536 2104
Northern Office:	028 9536 2845
Western Office:	028 9536 1008

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