

# Prescribing Hints & Tips

## October 2024

### **PACREATIC REPLACEMENT THERAPY (PERT) SHORTAGE UPDATE**

There is currently a national shortage of Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT), which is expected to continue into 2026.

Specialists in the acute Trusts have generated [guidance for primary care](#) here. This is also linked in the [Joint Formulary](#). The flowcharts included in the guidance document are designed to assist GPs in identifying whether their patients are high or low risk and outlining the necessary steps to manage these patients during the shortage of PERT.

Additionally, a recording of a [webinar](#) (18 September) from Pancreatic Cancer UK regarding PERT shortage guidance for GPs and pharmacists is also available.

### **BENZODIAZAPINES AND Z-DRUGS: UPDATED GUIDANCE AND BULLETIN**

The local APC guideline 'Benzodiazepines and Z-Hypnotics – Guidance on Prescribing and Deprescribing for the Management of Insomnia and Anxiety Disorders in Adults' has been updated and can be accessed [here](#).

PrescQIPP have also released a [bulletin](#) containing recommendations to optimise prescribing in insomnia. (Login required, free to register).

### **'MANAGING YOUR MEDICINES' RESOURCE**

There is information available on the ICB website for patients, their carers and healthcare professionals on possible solutions that might help improve adherence for patients with memory problems, visual impairment, or dexterity issues. Please see [here](#).

### **REPEAT PRESCRIBING TOOLKIT**

A brand new practical toolkit is available to help improve the consistency, safety and efficiency of repeat prescribing systems in England. [The Repeat Prescribing Toolkit](#), from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Royal College of GPs, was commissioned by NHS England.

The toolkit provides a framework that enables GP Practices and Primary Care Networks, working in collaboration with community pharmacies and patients, to streamline workloads, improve patient safety and care, address potential oversupply and reduce medicines waste.

## **UPDATE TO THE DIRECTION TO ADMINISTER PROJECT AND CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Currently there are several different documents in use across the ICS to give a direction to administer a medicine by a community nurse (ASS1 in South Notts, DNS1 in City, T34 in Mid Notts and DN14 forms in Bassetlaw).

Please see this [TeamNet](#) article outlining the current arrangements and validity for these forms, as agreed with CityCare and the Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust.

### Work in progress – primary care

The Direction to Administer project is working to standardise the forms so that we have one version in primary care that will be accepted by both community services providers. These will be known as DA forms. The DA forms will use an electronic signature and are currently in a third stage of being piloted in several GP practices. This will eliminate the need for a paper form with a physical signature, and will save time for prescribers and community nurses, reducing possible delays in patient care.

### Direction to administer for medicines prescribed and/or supplied by NUH and SFHT.

The community nursing teams in both Citycare and Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust can use the electronic TTO, which is posted on the CareCentric portal (also known as the Health and Social care portal) as a direction to administer for 14 days after discharge from hospital. The TTO acts a valid direction to administer for that duration. This should negate the need for urgent same day GP requests for these forms. The nurses may ask the GP to write a direction to administer to continue administering the medication after the 14-day period or sooner if a patient needs a clinical review before the 14 days.

For patients attending outpatient clinics, the Direction to Administer form will be written by the clinic and this will be visible on the CareCentric portal (also known as the Health and Social care portal) to nurses and GPs. This is a fairly new arrangement and is currently in place only at Nottingham University Hospitals. For any queries on these forms or if a form is not available, nurses should be encouraged to contact the appropriate clinic at the hospital.

### Direction to administer for medicines prescribed and/or supplied by DBTHFT.

Unlike NUH and SFHT, the CareCentric portal is not available at DBTHFT. Community Nursing Teams at Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust can use information from the TTO/Discharge letter as a Direction to Administer, provided that the TTO/Discharge letter contains the minimum data set required.

## **APC AND INTERFACE UPDATE**

The latest updates from APC and the Interface team can be accessed in webinar format [here](#).

There are two new podcasts available:

**[PILS Episode 13 \(August 2024\): Finerenone in CKD](#)**

**[PILS Episode 14 \(September 2024\): Cultural awareness](#)**

We'd be glad to hear your feedback either below the episode or by emailing [nnicb-nn.nottsapc@nhs.net](mailto:nnicb-nn.nottsapc@nhs.net).

## **MAILING LIST**

If you wish to be added or removed from the Prescribing Hints and Tips mailing list, please email [e.moncrieff@nhs.net](mailto:e.moncrieff@nhs.net)