

Prescribing Hints & Tips

February 2025

HYDROCORTISONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE 100MG/1ML SOLUTION FOR INJECTION SUPPLY ISSUES

Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules are in limited supply with stock exhaustion anticipated by late March 2025. The anticipated resupply date is May 2026.

Hydrocortisone sodium succinate 100mg powder for solution for injection/infusion remains available and can support an increase in demand. This is available in two pack sizes:

- 100mg x 1 vial which also contains a vial of diluent
- 100mg x 10 vials which does not include the diluent

If the product that comes with diluent provided is not available, prescribe the vials which do not include the diluent but ensure that water for injection is also prescribed to allow for the patient to reconstitute the powder. Patients should continue to obtain needles via their usual route.

Ensure that patients and carers have been counselled on the reconstitution step and of the difference in concentration between the reconstituted hydrocortisone sodium succinate (**50 mg in 1ml**) compared to hydrocortisone sodium phosphate solution for injection (**100 mg in 1ml**) to ensure they administer the correct dose.

Further information and helpful resources for patients can be found [here](#) (requires SPS login) and attached.

NOVO NORDISK INSULIN DISCONTINUATION GUIDANCE

Novo Nordisk Ltd has announced the discontinuation of some insulin presentations. This [document](#) provides a summary and guidance notes for clinicians on the alternative insulin options. This guidance is only applicable to adult patients and no children should be swapped without prior advice from the paediatric diabetes team. Affected patients are to be reviewed by the clinical teams currently responsible for diabetes management i.e. Primary Care or Specialist Diabetes Team.

DISCONTINUATION OF FREESTYLE LIBRE® 2 SENSORS

Abbott Laboratories Ltd has taken the decision to phase out the FreeStyle Libre® 2 Sensors at the end of **August 2025**. This discontinuation does not impact FreeStyle Libre® 2 Plus or FreeStyle Libre® 3 sensors. Abbott Laboratories has advised patients

using the FreeStyle Libre® 2 Sensors to have their prescriptions amended to the FreeStyle Libre® 2 **Plus** Sensors as soon as possible.

FreeStyle Libre® 2 Plus sensors are not interchangeable with FreeStyle Libre 3 Sensors which are only approved locally for use as part of a Hybrid Closed Loop System.

There are still a number of patients being prescribed FreeStyle Libre® 2 Sensors so practices are advised to identify these and switch when possible.

FOSTAIR® TO BIBECFO® SWITCH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Documents to support in the switching of patients from Fostair® to Bibecfo® have been produced and are available [here](#). These documents may also be helpful in situations where a patient has tried Luforbec® but it has not suited them and a switch to Bibecfo® could be tried rather than going back to Fostair®.

ICB FUNDED DOAC SWITCH SCHEME

It is not too late to sign up for the ICB funded DOAC switch scheme

**** The scheme has been extended till 31 May 2025 ****

- The ICB funded scheme provides payment to GP Practices for a cost efficiency switch from edoxaban (once daily) to rivaroxaban (once daily) for patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation.
- Every effort has been made to minimise risk, a [clinical guideline](#) and funding for Healthcare Professional time is provided. The ICB has taken the decision to only fund switches from edoxaban to rivaroxaban as both are once daily preparations and therefore less likely to cause confusion around dosing. Switches to apixaban will not be funded.
- Funding is £40 per switch for switches made between 1 February to 31 May 2025.
- Payment will be made directly to the practice at the end of the scheme and evidence for payment will be collected by the ICB Medicines Optimisation Team via a search of the practice clinical system.
- Please remember to use the read code specified in the practice agreement and in the switch guidance to ensure that switches can be identified.
- Thank you to those practices that have already signed up.

For more details and instructions on how to sign up, see Teamnet:

<https://teamnet.clarity.co.uk/Library/ViewItem/f1b9bf2a-e62c-49b9-ac45-b27200dd2ee0>

Signed agreements must be returned to jill.theobald@nhs.net. Please email Jill, or speak to your ICB Pharmacist, if you have any questions.

APC AND INTERFACE UPDATE

The latest updates from APC can be found on their website [here](#), including the most recent [APC Bulletin](#).

MAILING LIST

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