

Prescribing Hints & Tips

August 2025

OPIOIDS PRESCRIBED ON DISCHARGE

Please be reminded that modified-release (MR) opioids should not be prescribed for post-operative pain due to their increased risk and unsuitability for acute pain, as per the Drug Safety Alert, March 2025: "[Prolonged-release opioids: Removal of indication for relief of post-operative pain - GOV.UK](#)." Acute post-operative pain is typically short-term and self-limiting, making immediate-release opioids the preferred treatment option. If you encounter discharge paperwork that lists MR opioids for post-operative pain or lacks a clear plan for discontinuing or tapering opioids (including a recommended stop date), please contact the hospital department for clarification. Both NUH and SFH are actively reviewing their processes related to post-operative pain and CD discharge documentation. This is a significant undertaking involving many systems and clinicians, so there may still be occasions when discharge paperwork is not as comprehensive as desired.

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON DISCONTINUED BRANDED PRODUCTS

Please be aware that several branded products have recently been discontinued and changed to generic:

Discontinued Brand	Generic
Caverject® 10 microgram and 20 microgram powder and solvent for injection*	Alprostadil 10 microgram and 20 microgram powder and solvent for injection
Dalacin® cream, lotion and capsules	Clindamycin
Premarin® tablets	Conjugated oestrogens
Premique® Low Dose 0.3mg/1.5mg modified-release tablets	Conjugated oestrogens 300microgram / Medroxyprogesterone 1.5mg modified-release tablets
Provera® tablets	Medroxyprogesterone tablets
Otomize® ear spray	Dexamethasone/ Neomycin sulfate/ Acetic acid 0.1%w/w / 0.5%w/w / 2%w/w ear spray

* Caverject® Dual Chamber remains available and should continue to be prescribed by brand

These products should now be prescribed generically as the branded versions are no longer available. Please note:

- In SystmOne, some of these generic products may appear in orange text which indicates that branded prescribing is recommended. However, the generics can still be selected and prescribed.
- If the generic product doesn't appear in a search, try ticking the "non-prescribable / unlicensed" box to locate.

TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 10MG/ML (ADCORTYL® AMPOULES) AND 40MG/ML (KENALOG® VIALS) SUSPENSION FOR INJECTION DISCONTINUED

The Department of Health and Social Care have issued a Medicine Supply Notification regarding triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/ml (Adcortyl® ampoules) and 40mg/ml (Kenalog® vials). Both are being discontinued with stock expected to be exhausted by early June 2025. Alternatives are available, please use a licenced product first line where available. See the [notification](#) for further details.

NHSBSA ELECTRONIC REPEAT DISPENSING RESOURCES

The NHSBSA has various resources available to support GP practices with electronic repeat dispensing. See here [eRD resources for GP practices | NHSBSA](#).

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