

Prescribing Hints & Tips

May 2025

CHANGE IN DOAC MONITORING RECOMMENDATION FREQUENCY

NICE CKS guidance has changed from recommending at least 6 monthly monitoring of DOACs if the person is frail or older than 75 years to now recommending at least 4 monthly monitoring in this patient group. Nottinghamshire APC guidance for AF and DVT/PE will shortly be updated to reflect this change and OptimiseRx messages will be brought in line with the latest guidance.

Please note that the guidance advises more frequent monitoring in renal impairment or intercurrent illness that may impact renal or hepatic function.

NEW STANDARDISED ELECTRONIC DIRECTION TO ADMINISTER FORMS

Standardised electronic forms will be replacing all the existing Direction to Administer forms across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. These will be launched on the **9th June 2025**.

For more information about the process and implementation, please visit the Nottingham APC website as per the following link: [Direction to Administer](#)

Resources include:

- [Direction to administer guidance](#) - outlines the purpose, rationale and validity of the different forms.
- [Webinar recording](#) – A webinar explaining the background, context and implementation of the project.
- Direction to administer [SystmOne](#) and [EMIS](#) practices videos – essential viewing on the types of forms, the process and other important points for implementation.
- Written 'How to' guides for [SystmOne practices](#) and [EMIS](#).

Any questions, comments or feedback, please contact us: nnicb-nn.medsman@nhs.net

CAVERJECT® DISCONTINUATION

Caverject® injection vials are being discontinued and replaced by the generic version: alprostadil injection vials 10mcg and 20mcg. **Please prescribe vials generically going forwards.**

Alprostadil injections also come in pre-filled syringes (Caverject®Dual and Viridal® Duo) but these are currently experiencing supply problems. The administration method with pre-filled syringes is different to that of the vials, so if switching any patients from vial to pre-filled syringe, appropriate patient counselling and training is required.

PATIENTS WITH A DOMICILIARY CARE PACKAGE – COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GP PRACTICES AND CARE PROVIDERS

If a patient has been identified as having a domiciliary care package provided by either the local authority or a private organisation, it is recommended that the GP practice correctly codes this in the patient's clinical record and establishes the number of visits per day the care provider will be attending the patient. This will enable the GP practice to review the patient's medication needs and help support the care provider to ensure medication is given as prescribed.

LEARNING FROM PATIENT SAFETY EVENTS (LFPSE)

Please be reminded that as part of the 2025/26 GP Contract, practices are required to have regard to the [patient safety strategy](#) and also register for an administrator account with the learn from patient safety events service (LFPSE). This is for the purposes of:

- recording patient safety events at the practice about the services delivered by the practice, thereby contributing to the national NHS-wide data source to support learning, improvement and learning culture.
- enabling the practice to record patient safety events occurring in other health care settings (for instance if a GP practice wished to record an unsafe discharge from hospital).
- individuals recording patient safety events being able to download a copy of the record for purposes of supporting appraisal and revalidation.

More information on the LFPSE system and how to register for an account can be found here: [NHS England » Primary care information on the new national learn from patient safety events service](#)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE APPLIANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE (NAMS) EXPANDS TO INCLUDE CARE FOR PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH A TRACHEOSTOMY OR LARYNGECTOMY

NAMS is a commissioned service providing care and prescribing for patients with a stoma. In 2023, the service was extended to include patients with a tracheostomy or laryngectomy (head and neck stoma). Initially, the head and neck service excluded those under 18 years of age (paediatric patients). We are pleased to announce that this service now **includes paediatric patients**. The **ICB Medicines Optimisation Team** will contact practices where they have identified eligible patients.

If you'd like more information about this expanded service, please don't hesitate to speak to your ICB Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist or Pharmacy Technician. Further resources can be found on [TeamNet](#).

RECEPTIONIST ANTIBIOTIC RESOURCE GUIDE

A guide has been developed to support GP reception staff when responding to queries from patients about possible infections. It has been adapted from an All Wales Strategy Group guide and provides information on antibiotics and where patients can be signposted to locally. It can be found [here](#) on the Medicine Optimisation website and also on TeamNet

APC AND INTERFACE UPDATE

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