

# Prescribing Hints & Tips

## March 2025

### **NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY ALERT: DISCONTINUATION OF PROMIXIN (COLISTIMETHATE) 1-MILLION UNIT POWDER FOR NEBULISER SOLUTION UNIT DOSE VIALS**

Promixin® (colistimethate) 1-million-unit powder for nebuliser solution unit dose vials (UDVs) are being discontinued from early May 2025, with stocks anticipated to be exhausted by this date.

#### **Primary care actions to be completed by 30/04/2025:**

Pro-actively identify and review all patients currently prescribed Promixin® and immediately refer them to their respiratory specialist to switch to an alternative colistimethate preparation. As the nebuliser devices are different for different brands, patients prescribed colistimethate generically should be contacted to confirm the brand used and referred as needed.

Colomycin® (colistimethate) 1million-unit and 2million-unit powder for solution for injection, infusion or inhalation vials is our preferred brand within Nottinghamshire but are in limited supply until mid- April 2025 and late March respectively and are currently unable to support any increase in demand until the resupply dates.

Colicym® (colistimethate) 1million-unit powder for nebuliser solution unit dose vials are available and can support an increase in demand.

The full alert can be viewed [here](#).

### **DRUG SAFETY UPDATE: PROLONGED-RELEASE OPIOIDS - REMOVAL OF INDICATION FOR RELIEF OF POST-OPERATIVE PAIN**

The indication for the treatment of post-operative pain has been removed from the licences of all prolonged release opioids due to the increased risk of persistent post-operative opioid use (PPOU) and opioid-induced ventilatory impairment (OIVI).

Prolonged-release opioids provide relief from chronic severe pain but they should not be used for the treatment of acute pain following surgery. Immediate release opioids are used for the treatment of short-term post-operative pain. The full update can be seen [here](#).

### **NEW FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR INCLISIRAN**

NHSE announced at the beginning of the week that they have renegotiated the agreement with Novartis for continued access to inclisiran. As part of the new agreement community pharmacies and general practices will be able to purchase inclisiran at a nominal charge of £45, however they will now be reimbursed at £60 (an increase from

£50), with the difference between the purchase price and the NHS reimbursement price (i.e. £15) representing an injection administration and handling fee. This is an enhanced payment for practices and will be included in the Drug Tariff from 1 April 2025.

NHSE have indicated that cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention is a key priority and this includes lipid management as a key intervention for reducing CVD risk, this includes clinicians having access to a full range of treatments to provide optimal care to their patients.

As part of this, the agreement with Novartis will allow continued access to inclisiran, for current and new NHS patients in England until December 2027. NHSE hope that this enhanced payment will encourage uptake of inclisiran for eligible patients.

The [APC inclisiran prescribing information sheet](#) has been updated to reflect this change. Additionally we've had feedback from a number of practices that patients show a good lipid lowering response to inclisiran and it therefore helps practices achieve QOF points in this area.

### **MHRA PRESS RELEASE: PATIENTS TO REPORT WITHOUT DELAY ANY SAFETY PROBLEM WITH THEIR CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITOR OR INSULIN PUMP**

The MHRA is asking patients who use a continuous glucose monitor or insulin pump to report any safety problem with their device through the Yellow Card scheme. The press release can be viewed [here](#).

### **GENERAL MEDICINES INFORMATION QUERIES**

For general medicines information queries that are not specific to our locality, SPS (Specialist Pharmacy Services) provide clinical enquiry answering for professional audiences. Healthcare professionals in primary care across England can contact SPS using their single contact number: 0300 770 8564 or email address: [asksps.nhs@sps.direct](mailto:asksps.nhs@sps.direct)

If your query is specific to our locality, for example those involving the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire APC formulary or local prescribing arrangements, please continue to contact your designated Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist.

### **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](mailto:e.moncrieff@nhs.net)