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# Bite Size Prescribing News

## May 2018



Rotherham  
Clinical Commissioning Group

### Valproate medicines (Epilim ▼, Depakote ▼): Pregnancy Prevention Programme materials online Update

The Marketing Authorisation Holder for Epilim has produced new materials to support the Pregnancy Prevention Programme – branded as Prevent. These are now available online [here](#) and will be posted to healthcare professionals in the coming weeks. Once received, dispose of any old materials.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/valproate-medicines-epilim-depakote-pregnancy-prevention-programme-materials-online>

### Braltus (tiotropium): risk of inhalation of capsule if placed in the mouthpiece of the inhaler

The MHRA have received reports of patients who have inhaled a Braltus capsule from the mouthpiece into the back of the throat, resulting in coughing and risking aspiration or airway obstruction. Clinicians are reminded of the importance of training patients in the correct use of their inhaler, and specifically for Braltus, inform patients to store capsules in the screw-cap bottle provided (never in the inhaler) and to always check the mouthpiece is clear before inhaling. Further info can be found [here](#).

### Tackling inappropriate Emergency Supplies of Controlled/High Risk Drugs - NHS England

NHS England has seen an increase in incidents reported where patients have frequently presented through the Pharmacy NUMSAS Service (an updated form of the Emergency Supply scheme), attended OOH GP Care Providers or A & E Departments and successfully managed to obtain supplies of drugs with high abuse potential at multiple sites across the Yorkshire and Humber region, in a very short period of time.

Amongst other suggestions to try and safeguard against this, NHS England has suggested that where a practice has identified or has concerns that a specific patient may be trying to obtain inappropriate supplies, the words “**SUPPLIES ONLY TO BE MADE BY THE AUTHORISING PRESCRIBER**” should be added to the Pharmacy Info section on EMIS Web for the affected drugs:

Generic / Trade Switch | Drug Information | Medication Review | My Record

ACCESS, Baby (Mr) Born 01-Feb-1996 (22y) Gender Male  
Preferred Name Test Patient NHS No. Unknown Usual GP PLEWS, D J (Dr)

Name: Pregabalin 50mg capsules  
Dosage: One To Be Taken Three Times A Day  
Quantity: 84 capsule Duration: 28 Day(s)  
Rx Types: Repeat

Pharmacy Info (highlighted)

Or to the Script notes section of System One for the affected drugs:

Mr Mickey Mouse-TestPatient 01 Dec 1950 (67 y) M  
15 Doncaster Gate, Rotherham S65 1DJ  
Mobile (preferred): 007 73312 3827 Test, Temporary

Medication start: Tue 05 Jun 2018  
Drug prescribed: Pregabalin 25mg capsules  
Script type: NHS Issue  
Dose: use as directed  
Total quantity: 56 capsules = 56 capsule

Script notes (highlighted)

## Travel Vaccines

Following requests for greater clarity on which travel vaccines should or shouldn't be issued as part of GP enhanced services, the MMT has produced this poster as a way of explanation. The poster can be found in the top tips section of the RCCG website. A simplified version of the poster for display within practices will be available soon.

# Prescribing Guidance: Travel Vaccines and Antimalarials

  
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- NHS RCCG currently spends around £35k per year on travel vaccines and malaria prophylaxis which should **NOT** be prescribed on the NHS.
- Only **SOME** vaccines are available on the NHS because they protect against diseases which represent the greatest risk to public health if brought into the country.
- Provision of travel vaccines **NOT** allowed on the NHS should **ONLY** be through private means (charging for practice stock or private prescription).
- ALL antimalarial medications should **ONLY** be prescribed via private prescription or bought over the pharmacy counter.

**CCG will recharge practices for travel vaccinations/antimalarials which are claimed/prescribed under the NHS but should have been given privately.**

### Travel Vaccines ALLOWED on the NHS



The following immunisations for travel are part of additional services under GMS and PMS. Patients should **NOT** be charged a fee for these specified travel immunisations. *If a confirmatory certificate is requested by the patient then the practice may charge for this.*

- Cholera
- Diphtheria, polio and tetanus (combined vaccine)
- Hepatitis A (infectious hepatitis) - first and second/booster dose
- Typhoid - first and any booster doses
- Hepatitis A and typhoid (combined) - first dose (second dose is Hepatitis A alone)

Hepatitis A and B (combined) vaccination - do **NOT** give combined vaccine if patient only needs single component Hepatitis B vaccine.

**Reimbursement** - vaccines for these are available at NHS expense in one of two ways:

- Purchased by the practice and personally administered payment claimed through FP34PD.
- Obtained by the patient on NHS FP10 prescription. A prescription charge is payable to the pharmacy (unless the patient is exempt). In this situation no claim for personal administration fees should be made through FP34PD.

### Travel Vaccines NOT ALLOWED on the NHS



The following immunisations are **NOT** remunerated by the NHS as part of additional services. Patients should be charged a fee for these specified travel immunisations:

- BCG (tuberculosis)
- Hepatitis B (single agent)
- Japanese B encephalitis
- Meningitis ACWY (quadrivalent vaccine)
- Rabies
- Tick borne encephalitis
- Yellow fever

#### Charges

Practices may charge a registered patient for practice stock.

OR

Patient may be given a private prescription.

Charges may be levied for:

- The vaccine (when purchased by the practice stock)
- Writing the private prescription (in this case)
- Administration of the vaccine
- Post vaccination serological testing (in the case of hepatitis B administration if performed for travel reason)
- Provision of certification of immunisation (eg confirmation of Meningitis ACWY135 administration)

**Private travel health clinics and some community pharmacies also offer a vaccination service and will charge the patient.**

### Antimalarials



DoH 1995 (FMSL(95)7) guidance states antimalarials should **NOT** be prescribed on the NHS for prophylaxis.

Practice should issue a private prescription. In this case practices may charge the patient for issuing a private prescription.

Some medicines for the prevention of malaria are available for purchase "over the counter" (OTC) at community pharmacies.

#### REFERENCES produced May 2018

NHS England – *Items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care* November 2017

BMA - *Focus on travel immunisation* April 2018

PRESCQIPP – *Travel vaccines* September 2014

NHS Choices – *Travel Vaccinations* November 2015