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Bite Size Prescribing News

January 2019



Rotherham
Clinical Commissioning Group

Cilest to be discontinued

The manufacturer of Cilest® (norgestimate and ethinylestradiol) has written to healthcare professionals advising that this product will be discontinued with effect from July 2019. The letter states that this was a commercial decision to exit the oral hormonal contraceptive market and it is stressed that there are no safety, efficacy or quality issues with the product. Current supplies are expected to last until mid-July 2019. There are two alternative products that are currently available in the UK with the same active ingredients - Cilique® and Lizinna®.

Medicines Supply Continuity – Update on No Deal EU Exit Contingency Plans

The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England has written to pharmacists working in and with the NHS in England to update them on Government contingency plans for continuity of medicines supply in the event of a No Deal Exit from the EU. The [letter](#) states that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has been leading contingency planning, highlights the need to work together across the NHS and provides information on the following:

- **Medicine Supply Assessment:** a comprehensive assessment of medicines supply to identify products that have a manufacturing touch point in the EU or wider European Economic Area (EEA) countries.
- **Six Week Stockpile:** DHSC has received very good engagement from industry on developing a six-week stockpile of prescription only medicines and pharmacy medicines.
- **Alternative Transport Routes:** The government has agreed that medicines and medical products will be prioritised on alternative routes to maximise the ability for supply to continue unimpeded after 29 March 2019.
- **Vaccines:** Public Health England is working closely with vaccine suppliers to ensure replenishment of stockpiles continues in the event of supply disruption in the UK.
- **Clinical Research:** clinical research should continue as normal unless specific instructions or formal communications received; investigational medicinal products (IMPs) prioritised on alternative routes
- **Unlicensed Medicines:** DHSC have met all key unlicensed and specials suppliers and asked them to ensure that by March 2019 they have a minimum of six weeks additional supply in the UK in case of a 'no deal' scenario.
- **Serious Shortage Protocol:** The government has also put in place legislation to enable Ministers to issue protocols that, where appropriate, enable community pharmacies to dispense against a protocol instead of a prescription without going back to the prescriber first. Any protocol will be developed with input from clinicians and could cover dispensing a different quantity, pharmaceutical form, strength or a generic or therapeutic equivalent.

Emollients: risk of severe and fatal burns

The MHRA have issued [warnings about fire & burns risk with emollients](#). The new warnings state that **ALL** emollients may pose a risk of severe and fatal burns – regardless of paraffin content or concentration. The MHRA provide the following advice for healthcare professionals:

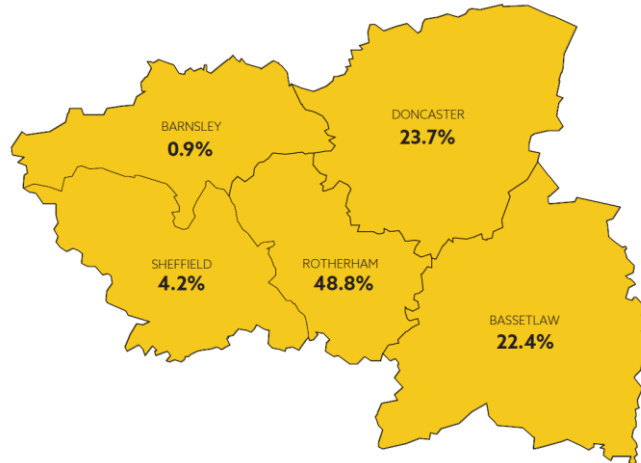
- There is a fire risk with all paraffin-containing emollients, regardless of paraffin concentration, and it also cannot be excluded with paraffin-free emollients.
- When prescribing, recommending, dispensing, selling, or applying emollient products to patients, instruct them not to smoke or go near naked flames because clothing or fabric such as bedding or bandages that have been in contact with an emollient or emollient-treated skin can rapidly ignite.
- Ensure patients and their carers understand the fire risk associated with the build-up of residue on clothing and bedding and can take action to minimise the risk.
- Be aware that washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but not totally remove it.

The above advice is even more pertinent to those patients prescribed oxygen therapy.



The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Integrated Care System (ICS) commissioned a patient survey across SYB called 569 million reasons.

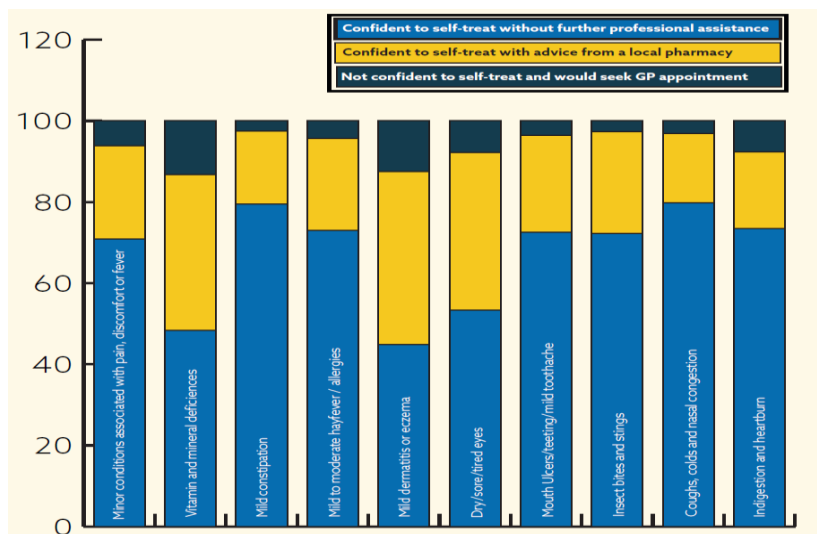
This survey has had over 14,000 responses making it the most successful public engagement exercise on health care.



48.8% of the respondents were Rotherham residents, so the results truly reflect the opinion of Rotherham residents.

Key Findings:

- **87.5%** of patients said that they were confident to self-treat.
- **82%** of patients said that they would be willing to buy medication if advised to do so by their GP
- Respondents cover the full age range and target audiences
- Only 36% of “prescribers” believed that patients would be willing to buy medication.
- Only 4% of patients believed that they had a right to all medication on prescription and patients with pre-payment certificates were over represented in this sample.



Patient confidence to self-treat minor acute symptoms was high, with only 12.5% of patients NOT confident to self-treat:

Our main message would be that if asked by a prescriber, 8 out of 10 Rotherham patients would be willing to purchase medication for self-care.