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# Bite Size Prescribing News

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Rotherham  
Clinical Commissioning Group

### **Increase in the range of palliative care medicines stocked at some pharmacies**

Due to the frequent stock shortages we are currently experiencing, we have asked those pharmacies taking part in the Palliative Care LES to keep an increased range of syringe driver medication in stock. Those pharmacies taking part in the LES will now keep a supply of:

DRUG	
Cyclizine 50mg per ml ampoules	Midazolam HCl 10mg per 2ml ampoules
Diamorphine 10mg powder for solution for injection ampoules	Sodium Chloride 0.9% 10ml ampoules
Diamorphine 30mg powder for solution for injection ampoules	Water for Injection 10ml ampoules
Haloperidol 5mg per 1ml ampoules	Morphine Sulphate 10mg per ml (1ml)
Hyoscine Hydrobromide 600mcg per ml (1ml)	Morphine Sulphate 30mg per ml (1ml)
Levomepromazine HCl 25mg per ml (1ml)	Oxycodone HCl 10mg per ml (1ml)
Metoclopramide 10mg per 2ml ampoules	Oxycodone HCl 10mg per ml (2ml)

Clinicians are asked to **always check with the pharmacy which palliative care medication they have in stock before issuing the prescription**. Even if a pharmacy is taking part in the LES, they may have already used all of their stock that day, so it is always best to check.

It is also worth remembering that Controlled Drugs prescriptions can be sent via electronic transfer to pharmacies (remember to untick the pers. admin box if System One stops the prescription going via ETP).

A list of the pharmacies that have currently signed up to the Palliative Care LES can be found here: <http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/palliative-care-scheme.htm>

### **Hormone replacement therapy (HRT): further information on the known increased risk of breast cancer with HRT and its persistence after stopping**

A new meta-analysis published in The Lancet ([here](#)) of more than 100,000 women with breast cancer has shown that some excess risk of breast cancer with systemic HRT persists for more than 10 years after stopping; the total increased risk of breast cancer is therefore higher than previous estimates. Latest advice from the MHRA ([here](#)) suggests that prescribers of HRT should inform women who use or are considering starting HRT of the new information about breast cancer risk at their next routine appointment. Also, regularly review patients using HRT to ensure it is used for the shortest time and at the lowest dose. A summary of the numbers of HRT-related breast cancers estimated from the new study, together with other risks and benefits of HRT use, is provided in [table 1](#) and in [table 2](#) from the MHRA.

### **Reminder of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions with montelukast (Singulair)**

Prescribers are reminded that neuropsychiatric reactions have been reported in adults, adolescents, and children using montelukast. Among these, sleep disturbances, depression and agitation (may affect up to 1 in 100 people taking montelukast); disturbances of attention or memory (up to 1 in 1,000 people); and very rarely, hallucinations and suicidal behaviour (up to 1 in 10,000 people). Speech impairment (stuttering) and obsessive-compulsive symptoms have also been newly recognised. Further information can be found on the GOV.UK Drug Safety Update site [here](#).











## New guidance on the issuing of insulin pen devices

Following requests from prescribers for greater clarity around the issuing of insulin pen devices, the Medicines Management Team has produced the following guide. As well as being a visual reminder of the different devices, it gives information on lifespan of the device which can range from 28 days (and hence need to be on repeat, and 6 years (which should be on acute only!)

### INSULIN PEN DEVICES GUIDE

#### TOP TIPS:

- Prescribe/use different colour of pen device for each type of insulin
- Prescribe one spare device for each type of insulin used (as replacement in emergency)
- Add "to be replaced by date" within dosage instructions to multiple-use pen devices
- All pen devices below are compatible with GlucoRx FinePoint pen needles (cost effective option) or any other brand of screw-on insulin pen needles

DEVICE NAME	MADE BY	APPEARANCE (other colours are available)	DOSAGE (min-max)	INSULIN used in pen	LIFESPAN (to be replaced after)	*Rx ISSUED
Humapen SAVVIO	Eli Lilly		1-60 units	Lilly 3ml cartridges from Humalog and Humulin ranges	6 years	A
Humapen LUXURA HD	Eli Lilly		0.5-30 units (half unit increments) (audible clicks)	Lilly 3ml cartridges from Humalog and Humulin ranges	3 years	A
KwikPen pre-filled	Eli Lilly		1-60 units	Pre-filled pens from Humalog and Humulin ranges	n/a (discard 28 days after first use)	R
Humalog Junior KwikPen pre-filled	Eli Lilly		0.5-30 units (half unit increments)	Pre-filled pens with Humalog only	n/a (discard 28 days after first use)	R
NovoPen 5	Novo Nordisk		1-60 units (with memory function)	Novo Nordisk 3ml Penfill cartridges Insulatard, Levemir, NovoMix 30, NovoRapid and Tresiba	4-5 years (depending on battery life and memory capacity)	A
NovoPen ECHO	Novo Nordisk		0.5-30 units (half unit increments)	Novo Nordisk 3ml Penfill cartridges Insulatard, Levemir, NovoMix 30, NovoRapid and Tresiba	4-5 years (depending on battery life and memory capacity)	A
FlexPen or FlexTouch pre-filled	Novo Nordisk		1-60 units (audible clicks)	Pre-filled pens	n/a (discard 28 days after first use)	R
Allstar PRO	Sanofi		1-80 units	Sanofi 3 ml cartridges	3 years	A
JuniorSTAR	Sanofi		1-30 units (half unit increments)	Sanofi 3 ml cartridges	2 years	A
SoloStar pre-filled	Sanofi		1-80 units	Pre-filled pens Lantus, Apidra, Insuman	n/a (discard 28 days after first use)	R

\*Rx issued: A - acute R - repeat