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Bite Size Prescribing News

October 2021



Rotherham
Clinical Commissioning Group

Discontinuation of Elleste Solo MX® 40 and 80 transdermal patches

Elleste Solo MX® 40 and 80 transdermal patches are being discontinued and remaining supplies are expected to be depleted by October 2021.

There are no equivalent dose patches. Nearest alternate strength estradiol patches are given in the table below however the dose will need to be titrated according to symptoms.

Elleste Solo MX® patch	Nearest alternative strength estradiol patch
40micrograms	50micrograms
80micrograms	75micrograms or 100micrograms

Reclassification of Desogestrel-containing contraceptive pills by the MHRA

Recently, the MHRA agreed to [reclassify 2 desogestrel-containing progestogen-only oral contraceptives](#) from prescription-only (POM) to pharmacy (P) products for the prevention of pregnancy in women of childbearing age. The MHRA's decision to reclassify these desogestrel products follows a safety review by the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) and public consultation.

The products reclassified, **Lovima 75 microgram film-coated tablets** and **Hana 75 microgram film-coated tablets**, are both oral contraceptives for continuous use to prevent pregnancy in those of childbearing age. They will both soon be available to buy in pharmacies after a consultation with a pharmacist.

Supply issue with Metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution

Long term supply issues of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution are expected. Advanz Pharma have discontinued metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution. Rosemont Pharmaceuticals have recalled one batch of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution due to the presence of NDMA impurities and are therefore out of stock due to further testing requirements.

Metformin 850mg/5ml and 1000mg/5ml oral solutions remain available but cannot support an increased demand.

Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution sugar free is available but cannot fully support an uplift in potential demand

Limited supplies of metformin 500mg/5ml oral solution are expected to be made available week commencing 4th Oct 2021, however, this is unable to support full demand.

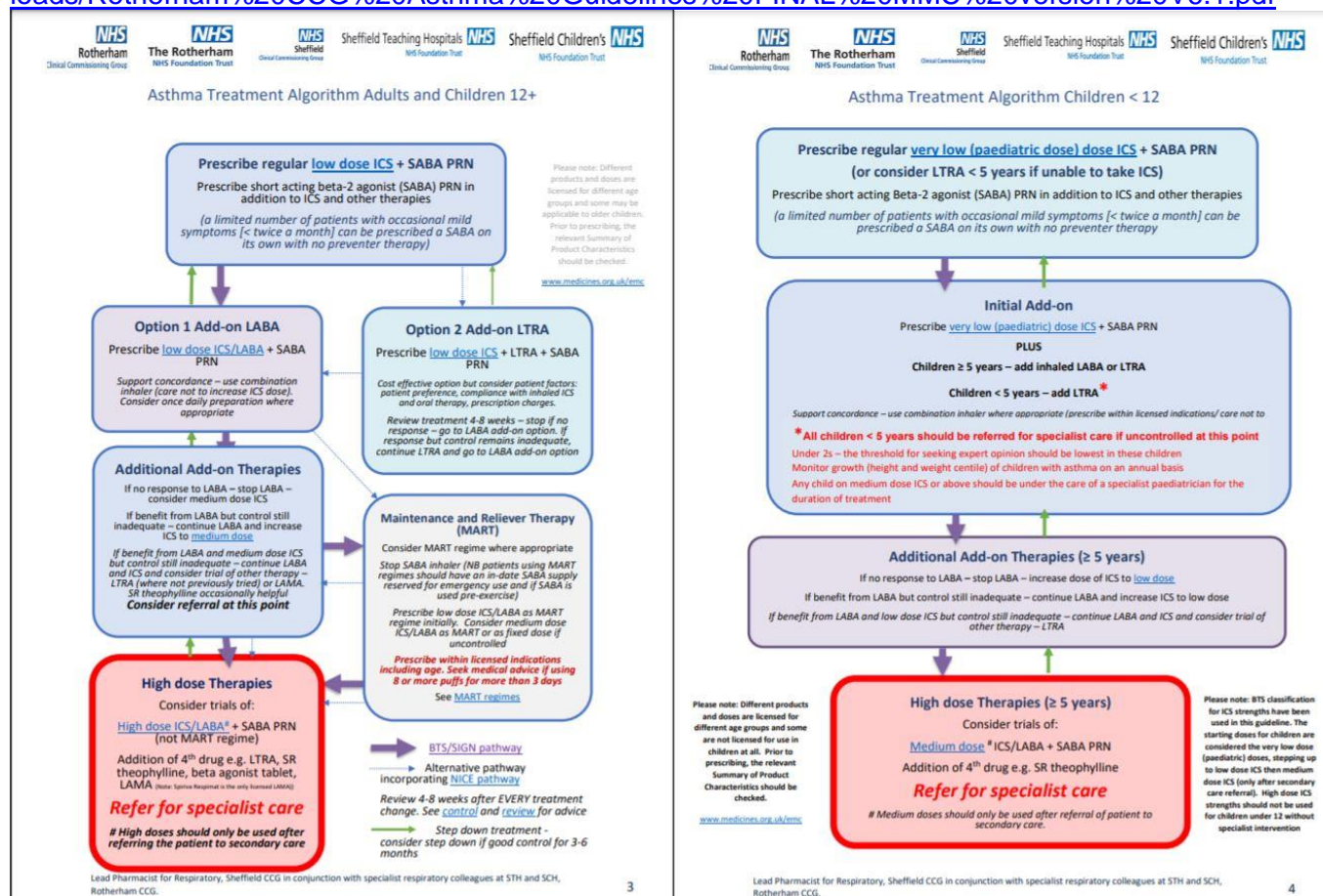
Alternatives to metformin oral solution:

- Metformin Tablets: metformin tablets do not disperse well in water, however, they can be crushed and mixed with water to form a fine suspension. Some brands of tablet are quite hard and therefore appropriate equipment should be used (e.g. a mortar and pestle) if required
- Metformin 500mg powder for oral solution
- Unlicensed products from Specials manufacturers

Updated Asthma guidelines

The MMT has produced some updated asthma guidance in conjunction with colleagues at NHS Sheffield CCG. The guidance contains treatment algorithms for children <12 years old and adults and children 12+, as well as prescribing tips and formulary inhaler choices. The guideline can be found in the Top Tips section of the CCG website here:

<http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/Downloads/Medicines%20Management/Top%20Tips%20Website%20Uploads/Rotherham%20CCG%20Asthma%20Guidelines%20FINAL%20MMC%20version%20V6.1.pdf>



Rotherham CCG Low Carbon Inhaler Guide

Guidance has been produced to help support the PCN Directly Enhanced Service requesting that PCN's actively "work with their CCG to optimise the quality of prescribing of metered dose inhalers, where a low carbon alternative may be appropriate". The MMT has produced some low carbon inhaler guidance which can be found in the Top Tips section here:

<http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/Rotherham%20Low%20Carbon%20guidelines.pdf>

Steroid Emergency Card to support early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults

A National Patient Safety Alert ([here](#)) has been issued regarding the issuing of a Steroid Emergency Card to relevant patients to support the early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults.

One of the asks of this safety alert is that all organisations that initiate steroid prescriptions should review their processes/ policies and their digital systems/software and prompts to ensure that prescribers issue a steroid emergency card to all eligible patients, as outlined in new guidance.

To help practices action the asks of the national patient safety alert the MMT has produced a [steroid alert](#) guide on when to issue steroid cards, who to issue them to, and how to obtain them. The guide, along with information on how to use Ardens templates to find appropriate patients in both SystemOne and EMIS web can be found in the Endocrine System section of Top Tips on the CCG website.