Changes to Madopar Prescribing – Update

Since updated Madopar (and generics) "special container" advice was issued in January (see prescribing bitesize vol 1 issue 1), the National Pharmacy Association (NPA) has produced guidance stating a seven-day max storage in compliance aids. There have however been reports of some community pharmacies refusing to dispense Madopar in nomads/compliance aids entirely.

Advice for clinicians

1) Check the need for a nomad with the patient.
2) If nomad is still required then contact relevant Parkinson's Disease team the patient is under. They have agreed to switch to co-careldopa (aka Sinemet) if appropriate.
3) If it has been decided that madopar still most appropriate option, and a nomad is still required, then a 7-day prescription and nomads dispensed every 7-days is the only logical option remaining.

Methotrexate Shared Care Protocols for Dermatology

The Shared Care Protocol for Methotrexate in Dermatology has been updated into two separate documents in the shared care protocols section of the yourhealthrotherham.co.uk website, Eczema and Psoriasis. This separation is to highlight the long-standing requirement in **psoriasis** for primary care to monitor Pro-collagen 3-N-terminal peptide (P3NP). P3NP is a terminal peptide released during the production of collagen in the skin. Evidence suggests serum PC3NP measurement is effective in the detection and monitoring of Methotrexate-induced liver fibrosis and cirrhosis. Serial measurements may reduce the need for liver biopsy. P3NP can be found on ICE here:

Contact dermatology for advice If:

PC3NP   > 4.2 mcg/ml in three samples or
              > 8 mcgs/ml in two samples or   (in a 12-month period)
              > 10 mcgs/ml in one sample

Updated Rotherham Emollient Guidelines

The new primary care Emollient Guidelines made in conjunction with TRFT have been uploaded to the Top Tips and Therapeutic Guideline section of the yourhealthrotherham.co.uk website (here). The guidelines have been updated with the latest product choices, and information on which contain lanolin.

Information source for out-of-stock issues

The [Specialist Pharmacy Service](#) (SPS) has developed a medicines supply tool showing most of the medicines that are currently out of stock, highlighting the anticipated re-supply date along with other information. It should be noted however that there will always be local variation in out-of-stock issues depending on the stock holdings of local pharmacies.

Practice team members that are interested must first register (free) with the SPS site. Once registered the information can be found in Tools ➔ Medicines Supply Tool, or via this [link](#).

HRT Prescriptions & HRT pre-payment Certificate (PPC)

From 1st April 2023, under the new HRT PPC scheme, for one year, there will be no limit to the number of HRT items or how many times a valid certificate can be used for a pre-paid fee equivalent to two single NHS prescription charges (£19.30 from April 1st).
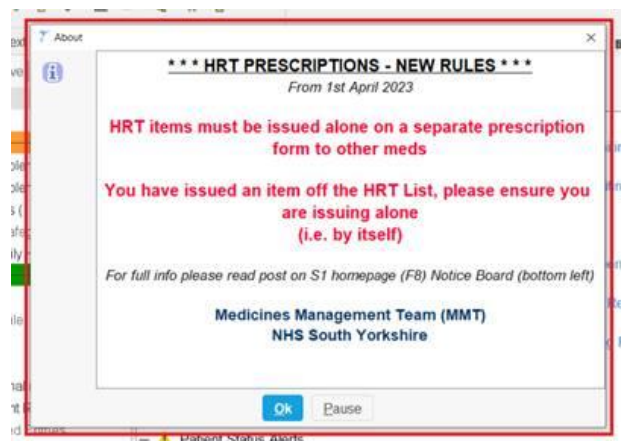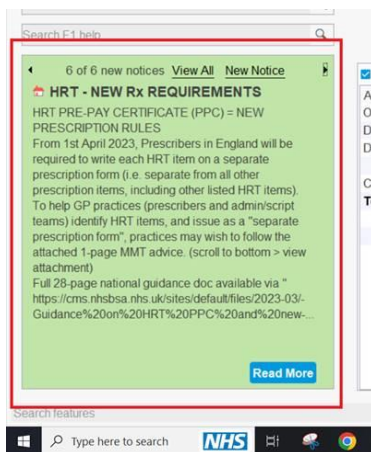
The HRT PPC does not cover all HRT medicines. Patients can check medicines covered by the HRT PPC [here](#). Patients will need to apply for the HRT PPC through the NHSBSA [here](#) or in person at a pharmacy registered to sell PPCs for use on or after 1st April 2023.

For people who need multiple medicines, their "existing PPC" may remain a more cost-effective method of paying for all prescription items (HRT and non-HRT).

National amended regultions: **GPs in England will be required to write "each HRT item" on a separate prescription form** (i.e. separate from all other prescription items, including other listed HRT items) as mixed prescriptions cannot be processed within the current NHS prescription processing and pricing systems.
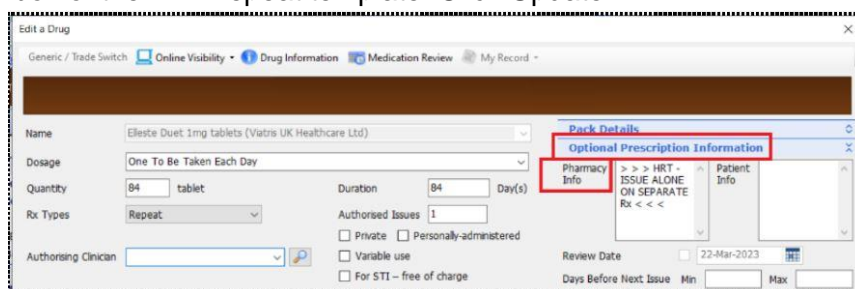
SYSTMONE

Information on how to add a notification to the Oestrogens and HRT group of medication has been added by the MMT to the SystmOne notification board, along with a pop-up whenever HRT is issued on acute or repeat.

EMIS Web

Unlike in S1, we have been unable to find a "bulk" way to add text to HRT medicines. The alternative is

- Reporting > build search to identify all patients prescribed HRT preparations
- In each patient record > select the HRT medication > right-click and select "Edit"
- Add the wording " **> > > HRT - ISSUE ALONE ON SEPARATE Rx < < <** " (copy & paste) into the Pharmacy info box of the HRT repeat template. Click Update

Then, when you go into the medications screen of any patient on HRT, you should see something like the following example: