

Hints & Tips

Prescription Information Services

Gateway: 03/NHBSA/RXS/09/2016

Issue 25



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Welcome to the October 2016 issue of Hints & Tips!

If you've got a hint or tip that you would like us to write about in a future edition, please email it to:

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Welcome to the October 2016 issue of Hints & Tips, your regular newsletter full of updates and information.

In this issue we've included an update on ePACT2 and changes to EPS, plus details of the work of our Pacific team and how they can help you. There's a reminder about centrally supplied vaccines and the Repeat Dispensing reports available on the [Information Services Portal](#), and details of products which now have licensed equivalents available.

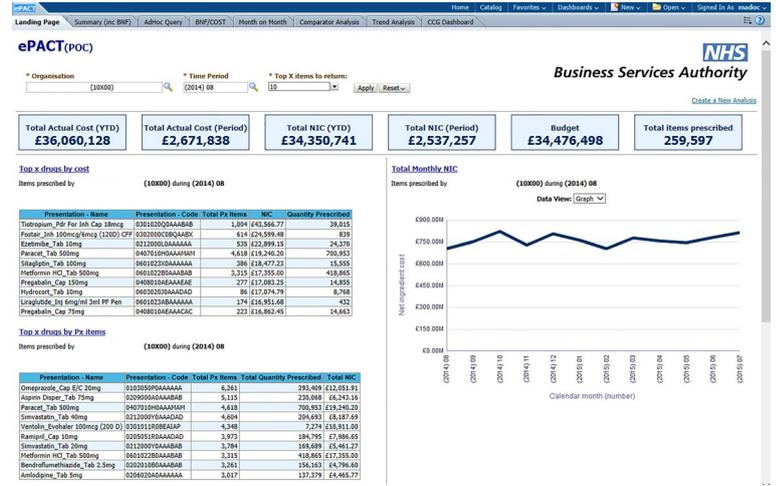
There's also information on specials items which include coal tar and polyvinyl alcohol 1.4% eye drops, and on items added to Drug Tariff Part VIII A. Finally, there's a reminder of where you can find the refreshed Medicines Optimisation Dashboard.

If there are any topics you'd like us to cover in future issues please let us know at nhsbsa.communicationsteam@nhs.net

ePACT 2 update

The project to upgrade the technology used to deliver ePACT is progressing well.

ePACT2 will allow access to increased data and you will be able to view data in many ways. The new system has many features which are easy to use and more interactive than those on the current ePACT system, allowing analysis to be carried out simply and quickly. These include having the functionality to create queries, format views and work with views of data including charts from which custom-built interactive dashboards and reports can be generated.



Alerts can be created to notify you of a specific event or where data meets defined criteria. These alerts can be sent to you within ePACT2 or via email.

We're finalising our plans for roll out and will share this very soon. In the meantime, we'd be interested to know which of the ePACT template reports you currently use most frequently and find most useful. We can then ensure that these are considered for inclusion in the initial delivery phase. Please send details of the five reports you use most to nhsbsa.help@nhs.net by the end of October 2016.

dm+d survey now live

The dm+d Content Committee is seeking feedback from users on a proposal to change the values for the VMP prescribing status attribute. You can find more detail, including a link to the survey, at <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/prescriptionservices/5794.aspx>

Repeat Dispensing reports

Did
you
know?

Did you know the repeat dispensing report available in the Information Services Portal includes EPS items?

The repeat dispensing reports are a set of reports which provide information at both cost and item level and they're updated each month. Information is presented at various levels and the view available to you will depend on your permissions.



Pacific Programme update

The NHS Business Services Authority's Pacific Programme aims to collaborate with colleagues across the healthcare system to release £1bn of recurring savings, while maintaining or improving outcomes for patients. Many of you will already be aware of the programme, so here's a brief overview and update that we hope you'll find helpful. If you'd like to know more, please [get in touch](#).

What have we achieved so far?

The programme has already delivered £242m of savings. This has been achieved primarily by driving better value from NHS Supply Chain, reducing patient and provider fraud or error and optimising end-to-end processes. Further projects are expected to save over £500m by April 2018.

What's happening now?

Since our last update we have continued to work on a multitude of projects with stakeholders across the system. Our engagement with CCG colleagues through our DH eXchange discussion boards are providing useful insight towards new initiatives whilst driving business as usual changes in areas such as the Drug Tariff. If you would like to register to be part of the conversation or have an idea that you would like to share with the team please [let us know](#).

How can we help you more?

We're very grateful to those of you who have already been involved in discussions with the Pacific team and welcome any further involvement and [feedback](#) to help drive new and existing opportunities.

If you haven't been involved so far but would like to discuss how Pacific might help you address issues or achieve objectives, please [get in touch](#).

You can find out more about the Pacific Programme by visiting [our website](#).



Centrally supplied vaccines

Please remind practices that where vaccines have been centrally procured for their practice through Public Health England, they should not make a claim under personal administration arrangements to NHS Prescription Services on form FP34D/PD Appendix or FP10.

An FP34D/PD Appendix or FP10 form should only be submitted for payment to cover the dispensing of a vaccine by personal administration where the vaccine has been purchased by the practice.

Recently NHS Prescription Services has conducted an exercise to recover payments for Meningococcal vaccines claimed by GP practices where they had been centrally supplied and payment had been claimed under personal administration arrangements. For the period October 2015 – July 2016 a total of £333,500 has been recovered.

Licensed equivalents now available

Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral suspension (Special Order) has been discontinued. A licensed option is available from Sandoz Ltd which should be considered and is also available through AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Alliance Healthcare (Distribution) Ltd.

Instead of using Naproxen 125mg/5ml (Special Order) which is unlicensed, use of Naproxen 125mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free (Orion Pharma (UK) Ltd) which is licensed and also available through AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd should be considered.



Specials (unlicensed) items containing coal tar

There is evidence that prescribing and dispensing errors for specials products (unlicensed products) containing coal tar can result in some patients receiving an inappropriate product. This leads to a risk of significant harm. The British Association of Dermatologists' List of Preferred Specials lists products containing coal in terms of the % of one of the official coal tar preparations. There are three of these:

- Coal Tar BP
- Coal Tar Solution BP
- Coal Tar Solution Strong, BP.

An important factor contributing to the errors appears to be confusion as to which of these preparations is needed. Prescribers and dispensers should therefore ensure that prescribed orders for specials items containing coal tar clearly specify the coal tar preparation. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has published updated guidance for the procurement and supply of specials and guidance for the prescribers of specials:

<http://www.rpharms.com/unsecure-support-resources/specials-resources.asp>.





Recent additions to Part VIII A

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) performs an administrative role in compiling the Drug Tariff on behalf of the Department of Health. The prices listed in Part VIII A of the Drug Tariff indicate what NHS dispensing contractors will be paid for dispensing prescriptions written generically. The NHSBSA follows a process set out by the Department of Health to make any additions/changes/deletions to Part VIII A. The NHSBSA can use any information regarding products not already listed in Part VIII A to initiate the process of adding them to Part VIII A, however it is important to note that we can't predict the outcome or duration of this process. You can send any suggestions to nhsbsa.prescribingqueries@nhs.net.

Advance notice of changes to Part VIII A can be found in the Preface to the Drug Tariff. A significant number of products have been added to Part VIII A between August 2016 and October 2016 including: Linezolid 600mg tablets, Sodium chloride 0.9% nebuliser liquid 2.5ml unit dose ampoules, Sodium fluoride 0.05% mouthwash sugar free, various strengths of Tinzaparin sodium solution for injection pre-filled syringes and Tolterodine 2mg modified-release capsules.

Polyvinyl alcohol 1.4% eye drops

Did
you
know?

Polyvinyl alcohol 1.4% eye drops and Polyvinyl alcohol 1.4% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose preservative free are classified as medical devices and these products are no longer being manufactured as licensed medicines. The medical devices containing polyvinyl alcohol that have been approved as appliances are listed in Part IXA of the Drug Tariff in the eye products category. Polyvinyl alcohol 1.4% eye drops preservative free may also be prescribed and sourced from a manufacturer holding a MHRA special licence.

Prescribers may wish to consider whether a patient would be able to use one of the unit dose preservative free products as an alternative to prescribing a 'special'.

The products in Part IX are listed by proprietary name or generic name + supplier.

Medicines Optimisation

The Medicines Optimisation Dashboard was refreshed at the end of August 2016 and you can access it at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/pe/mo-dash/>

The next version is due to be refreshed in November 2016.



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