

Medicines management bulletin

Product updates and profile management

Insights from Primary Care: Join the conversation

We had the pleasure of attending the PCPA Leadership Conference in London last week – the first time PCPA have run this event, which was a sell-out and a huge success.

We not only had the opportunity to host an exhibition stand on the day but were also invited to talk to delegates before attending their first workshop. We took the opportunity to gather insights and feedback from PCPA members on the current challenges they face.

Most delegates were from Primary Care Networks (46%), with others from ICBs and a handful from Primary Care (general practice). We gathered the following results from a survey of these delegates:

Top tasks performed day-to-day?

1. Medication reviews/monitoring/SMRa
- 2. Out of stock/access to meds**
3. Medicines Reconciliation
4. De-prescribing
5. Prescribing

Top challenges?

1. Capacity/workload
2. Lack of time
3. Lack of joined-up working
- 4. Out of stock issues**
5. Staffing/workforce

What makes technology good?

1. Ease of use/accessibility/speed and user friendly
2. Integration and seamless working
3. Connecting people and teams
4. Connectivity
5. Data sources, up-to-date and access to resources

How to fund new solutions?

This was an emotive topic, particularly around processes feeling long, complicated and time consuming, feeling impossible at times.

1. Business Cases
2. Pilots
3. Data
4. Engaging Stakeholders
5. ICB

We'll be using this research to dig deeper into some of the challenges, to see where Optum can make an impact with our products and services. We welcome the report published this week by RPS on [Medicines Shortages: Solutions for Empty Shelves](#) as this topic appeared in the top daily tasks and challenges. The report highlights 5 recommendations for local systems, amongst others.

If you were unable to attend the Leadership Conference and would like to add your thoughts, you still have time to join the conversation [here](#).

Alternatively, our User Research team regularly speak with customers to understand more about their roles and tasks, as well as share ideas for forthcoming features. If you would you like to take part in future research, please email leonie.barrington@optum.com

Latest KINES Library content – November 2024

The following recommendations have been added to the Content Manager Library tab.

Optum Quantity Limit Switches

Selected by our clinical team from careful analysis of national prescribing data to identify high-impact, overprescribed products. Continuing our ongoing collaboration with NHS England around antimicrobial stewardship, we have developed a new and updated set of quantity limit switches for antibiotics to limit to a 5-day supply. These are often prescribed for longer than is recommended by NICE for respiratory tract infections.

Products: 5-day course antibiotics for respiratory tract infections	Quantity Limit	Treatment duration
Amoxicillin 500mg capsules (1 TDS dose) *updated*	15 capsules	5 days
Doxycycline 100mg capsules *updated*	6 capsules	5 days
Doxycycline 100mg dispersible tablets sugar free		
Co-amoxiclav 500mg/125mg tablets	15 tablets	5 days
Clarithromycin 250mg tablets	10 tablets	5 days
Clarithromycin 500mg tablets		
Erythromycin 250mg gastro-resistant tablets	20 tablets	5 days
Erythromycin stearate 250mg tablets		
Erythromycin ethyl succinate 500mg tablets		
Erythromycin stearate 500mg tablet		

KINES UK National Library:

Subject	Source	Number of products/messages
Bromocriptine – MHRA update: monitor blood pressure for prevention or inhibition of post-partum physiological lactation	MHRA	1 (new)

Medicines supply notifications	Source	Number of products/messages
NovoRapid® FlexTouch® 100units/ml 3ml pre-filled pens – being discontinued	CPE	1 (updated)
Sodium Fusidate (Fucidin®) discontinued from mid-January 2025.	CPE	4 (new)
Fusidic acid (Fucidin®) 250mg/5ml oral suspension discontinued from late June 2025		
Methylphenidate prolonged-release tablets, Methadone 5mg tablets, Daktacort 2%/1% cream, Naltrexone 50mg tablets – Supply notifications deleted	CPE	9 (deleted)

Cost-effectiveness updates

NCSO price concessions granted in England and Wales for November 2024* (from [CPE](#))

This list shows the top 30 concessions by estimated impact. If a product has multiple pack sizes with concessions, we have only included the concession with the biggest potential impact. The full and most up to date list of products and price concessions can be found on the CPE website. Please note these price concessions are not incorporated into the ScriptSwitch Prescribing pop up or reporting data.

Estimated impact on spend is based on the concession price increase and the number of prescriptions for each product logged by ScriptSwitch Prescribing across our UK customer base during the last 30 days to date*.

Product	Pack Size	DT price (Nov 24)	Concession price	£ Increase	% Increase	Estimated impact on spend
Naproxen 500mg gastro-resistant tablets	56	£4.67	£19.88	£15.21	326%	£113,330
Hydroxocobalamin 1mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules	5	£11.27	£12.65	£1.38	12%	£77,297
Ketoconazole 2% shampoo	120	£20.52	£24.00	£3.48	17%	£57,190
Methylphenidate 54mg modified-release tablets	30	£36.80	£73.62	£36.82	100%	£56,445
Apixaban 2.5mg tablets	60	£1.95	£4.20	£2.25	115%	£37,854
Tacrolimus 0.1% ointment	60	£39.74	£47.28	£7.54	19%	£37,836
Quetiapine 100mg tablets	60	£3.61	£11.10	£7.49	207%	£33,787
Naproxen 250mg gastro-resistant tablets	56	£2.30	£6.75	£4.45	193%	£24,751
Quetiapine 200mg tablets	60	£4.69	£15.50	£10.81	230%	£21,155
Tadalafil 5mg tablets	28	£1.89	£8.25	£6.36	337%	£20,320
Pregabalin 75mg capsules	56	£1.54	£2.65	£1.11	72%	£15,929
Benzoyl peroxide 5% / Clindamycin 1% gel	60	£19.58	£22.06	£2.48	13%	£14,203
Metformin 1g modified-release tablets	56	£3.25	£4.11	£0.86	26%	£12,575
Perindopril erbumine 8mg tablets	30	£1.30	£3.32	£2.02	155%	£12,480
Quetiapine 25mg tablets	60	£1.92	£2.85	£0.93	48%	£12,427
Metformin 500mg modified-release tablets	56	£2.11	£2.49	£0.38	18%	£11,697
Quetiapine 150mg tablets	60	£3.73	£11.35	£7.62	204%	£11,171

Cost-effectiveness updates continued ...

Product	Pack Size	DT price (Nov 24)	Concession price	£ Increase	% Increase	Estimated impact on spend
Nicorandil 10mg tablets	60	£3.15	£7.58	£4.43	141%	£10,362
Nicorandil 20mg tablets	60	£4.66	£13.82	£9.16	197%	£9,810
Quetiapine 300mg tablets	60	£6.12	£12.10	£5.98	98%	£8,067
Chloramphenicol 1% eye ointment	4	£2.81	£3.68	£0.87	31%	£7,568
Clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension	70	£6.22	£8.64	£2.42	39%	£7,456
Nefopam 30mg tablets	90	£3.18	£3.86	£0.68	21%	£7,164
Pregabalin 150mg capsules	56	£2.29	£2.88	£0.59	26%	£6,336
Telmisartan 80mg tablets	28	£2.61	£14.47	£11.86	454%	£6,001
Levetiracetam 500mg tablets	60	£3.82	£4.95	£1.13	30%	£5,742
Perindopril erbumine 4mg tablets	30	£0.92	£1.68	£0.76	83%	£4,419
Mometasone 0.1% ointment	30	£2.92	£3.22	£0.30	10%	£3,544
Sodium cromoglicate 2% eye drops	13.5	£2.50	£3.14	£0.64	26%	£3,400
Pregabalin 300mg capsules	56	£2.70	£3.10	£0.40	15%	£3,231

*As of 22/11/24

Stock availability feedback

We have had recent pop-up feedback from individual practice prescribers across our national customer base, regarding availability of the following products. Those in **bold** have been reported from multiple practices (number of reports in brackets):

Multiple reports:

- **Epimax oatmeal cream (16)**
- **Ralvo 700mg medicated plasters (16)**
- **Brancico XL tablets [all strengths] (13)**
- **Scheriproct ointment (13)**
- **Travoprost 40mcg/Timolol 5mg eye drops (13)**
- **Tadalafil 2.5, 5 mg tablets (9)**
- **Bupeaze 35mcg/hour transdermal patches (5)**
- **Isosorbide mononitrate tablets [20, 40mg] (5)**
- **Octasa MR GR tablets [400, 800mg] (5)**
- **Soprobac 100, 200 mcg/dose inhaler (5)**
- **Stexerol-D3 1,000unit tablets (5)**
- **Xenidate XL tablets [all strengths] (5)**
- **Zomorph 10, 30 mg MR capsules (4)**
- **Carbimazole 5mg tablets (3)**
- **Dorzolamide 20mg/Timolol 5mg eye drops (3)**
- **Isosorbide mononitrate 60mg MR capsules (3)**
- **Latanoprost 50mcg/Timolol 5mg/ml eye drops (3)**
- **Mefenamic acid 250mg tablets (3)**
- **Metformin MR tablets [500mg, 1g] (3)**
- **Rozex 0.75% gel (3)**
- **Sondate XL tablets [150, 200mg] (3)**
- **Xaggitin XL tablets [all strengths] (3)**
- **Fresubin 2kcal Mini drink (2)**
- **Fresubin Jucy drink (2)**
- **Frisium 10mg tablets (2)**
- **Memantine tablets [10, 20mg] (2)**
- **Plenachol D3 20,000unit capsules (2)**
- **Strivit-D3 800unit capsules (2)**
- **Surgrip bandage 8.75cm size E (2)**

One-off reports:

- Adipine MR 10 tablets
- AirFluSal 25mcg/dose / 250mcg/dose inhaler
- Anabact 0.75% gel
- Beclometasone 50mcg/dose nasal spray
- Colestyramine 4g oral powder sachets
- Delofine XL 10mg tablets
- Erythromycin 250mg gastro-resistant tablets
- Estradiol 10microgram pessaries
- GreenFine hypodermic insulin needles screw on 4mm/32gauge
- Insupen Original hypodermic insulin needles screw on 4mm/32gauge
- Metformin 500mg oral powder sachets SF
- Mezzopram 20mg dispersible GR tablets
- Naproxen 500mg tablets
- Nasofan 50mcg/dose aqueous nasal spray
- Peptac liquid aniseed
- Reletrans 10mcg/hour transdermal patches
- Relevtec 35mcg/hour transdermal patches
- Salamol 100micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free
- VIZcellose 1% eye drops preservative free
- Vizidor 20mg/ml eye drops
- Yacella 0.03mg/3mg tablets

This list is based purely on prescriber feedback related to specific local switches within our customer profiles across the whole customer base. Availability can vary geographically and also between wholesalers and individual community pharmacies. Up-to-date information should be sought from manufacturers, local community pharmacies and suppliers. If you have switches to any of these products in your profile, you may wish to review local stock availability accordingly.

ScriptSwitch product updates

New products on Content Manager

These are some of the notable product additions to our drug database, which can be selected on Content Manager for switches and information messages following the latest product update:

Branded products added (AMPs):

- ActiDerm 1% cream
- AdMag 100mg tablets
- Amgevita 20mg/0.2ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes
- Apollo BV Pen hypodermic insulin needles [2 sizes]
- Apollo Tri-Plus safety lancets [2 sizes]
- Ayvakyt tablets [2 strengths]
- Cequa 0.9mg/ml eye drops 0.25ml unit dose
- Fenylat transdermal patches [5 strengths]
- Fruzaqla capsules [2 strengths]
- Iqirvo 80mg tablets
- Loargys 2mg/0.4ml solution for injection vials
- Paravit-Mod [capsules/liquid]
- Piasky 340mg/2ml solution for injection vials
- Sogroya solution for injection pre-filled pens [2 strengths]
- Spikevax JN.1 COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine
- Survimed OPD 1.5kcal drink
- Utrogestan 300mg vaginal capsules
- Voydeya tablets [2 strengths]
- VSL#3 Food Supplement capsules
- VSL#Fibre Experience Food Supplement oral powder 4g sachets
- Yorvipath solution for injection pre-filled pens [3 strengths]

Generic products added (VMPs):

- Acetic acid 4% gel
- Amikacin 25mg/5ml solution for injection
- Ammonium chloride 350mg/5ml oral suspension
- Aripiprazole tablets [2 strengths]
- Avapritinib tablets [2 strengths]
- Bevacizumab solution for injection [2 strengths]
- Caffeine 250mg/2ml / Sodium benzoate 250mg/2ml solution for injection ampoules
- Calcium chloride 14.7% solution for injection
- Ciclosporin 900micrograms/ml eye drops 0.25ml unit dose preservative free
- Clonidine 20mg/10ml solution for injection
- Coal tar 1% / Zinc oxide 15% in Yellow soft paraffin
- Crovalimab 340mg/2ml solution for injection
- Danicopan tablets [2 strengths]
- Elafibranor 80mg tablets
- Fentanyl 500micrograms/10ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes
- Fluorescein 1g/5ml solution for injection
- Fruquintinib capsules [2 strengths]
- Gentamicin 240mg/6ml solution for injection pre-filled syringes
- Palopegteriparatide solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices [3 strengths]
- Pegzilarginase 2mg/0.4ml solution for injection vials
- Progesterone micronised 300mg vaginal capsules
- Somapacitan solution for injection pre-filled disposable devices [2 strengths]
- Topiramate 100mg/5ml oral solution sugar free

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