



- **Prescribing codes for prescribers who are starters or leavers**

There have been some issues with GP surgeries not carrying out the correct process with NHS Prescription Services for GPs and Non-medical prescribers (e.g. nurses, pharmacists etc) who have joined or left the surgery. This creates difficulties for the NHS Prescription Services in processing prescriptions and means they may not be attributed correctly leading to inaccuracies within ICB budgets, plus the potential for cross charging of data both within and outside the ICB. A new section has been added to the Primary Care Portal which details the process that GP surgeries need to undertake when a prescriber starts with or leaves the surgery [Prescribers Starters and Leavers guidance | Nene & Corby Primary Care Portal \(northamptonshireccq.nhs.uk\)](#)
- **Supply issues with Semaglutide and Dulaglutide**

A Medicines Supply Notification (MSN) has been released for 1mg semaglutide (Ozempic®) and all strengths of dulaglutide (Trulicity®). Whilst the supplies of 1mg semaglutide are expected to improve from 17th October 2022, it is predicted that supply issues will remain with dulaglutide until the new year. To help manage this situation clinicians should not commence any new patients on either of these preparations until the new year. Please see individual MSNs for more detail.
- **[NICE guideline \[NG222\] - Depression in adults: treatment and management](#)**

This guideline recommends treatments for first episodes of depression and further-line treatments, and provides advice on preventing relapse, and managing chronic depression, psychotic depression and depression with a coexisting diagnosis of personality disorder.
- **Managing Electronic Prescription Cancellations**

It is important for practices to action EPS cancellation rejection messages daily and that all prescribers are aware of how to cancel prescriptions correctly. It has recently been highlighted that some practices don't have these processes in place. The CSU have produced [helpful slides](#) on how to do this, which will be a useful resource for all new starters and all existing staff involved in the prescription process. SystemOne users should pay particular attention to page 3 to ensure they are correctly cancelling prescriptions. Should you require additional support, please contact Arden & GEM CSU IT Service Desk via the Self Service portal – <https://ardengem.saasiteu.com> or for urgent queries - 0300 123 1020
- **[MHRA alert regarding home use of nebulised asthma rescue therapy in children](#)**

The MHRA has issued an alert which advises that use of a nebuliser purchased independently of medical advice for home use to deliver asthma rescue medication can mask a deterioration in the underlying disease and may increase the risk of potentially fatal delays in seeking medical attention if asthma deteriorates. Home nebulisers for the acute treatment of asthma in children under 18 should only be initiated and managed by an appropriate specialist.
- **[Access community-based treatments for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)**

This guidance provides information on how to access COVID-19 treatments outside of hospital (currently there are 2 ways; PANORAMIC study & targeted deployment), including information on free prescriptions and lateral flow tests.
- **[No change to MHRA advice on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#)**

MHRA have issued a statement to reassure the public that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective during pregnancy and breastfeeding. This follows false claims on social media that advice has changed in this patient group.