



➤ **National Patient Safety Alert for Rifampicin**

A National Patient Safety Alert (attached) has been issued by NHS England and the DHSC concerning a shortage of antimicrobial agents used in tuberculosis (TB) treatment. This alert concerns supplies of all presentations of rifampicin and combination products containing rifampicin. Nationally, stocks are being conserved for existing TB patients supplied via the TB. Rifampicin is likely to be in short supply until at least the end of 2025.

GPs are asked to review all patients on rifampicin for non-TB indications and consult with microbiology specialists for advice on alternatives. If rifampicin is being used for non-infectious indications (eg itch in primary biliary cirrhosis) seek advice from the appropriate specialists. The Medicines Optimisation team can help with searches if needed.

➤ **Prescribing of Adrenaline Auto Injectors – Updated Guidance**

The guidelines for [Prescribing of Adrenaline Auto Injectors](#) have been updated to include the process for supply of allergy action plans. All patients using an adrenaline auto injector should have an adrenaline action plan. The prescriber should check if the patient has an up-to-date allergy action plan each time an adrenaline autoinjector is prescribed. Allergy action plans can be produced using Ardens templates, or directly from [Allergy Action Plans - BSACI](#).

➤ **Patients of child-bearing potential prescribed valproate – reminder to refer patients back to secondary care if not already under secondary care.**

Practices should have a robust process in place to ensure that all female patients of child-bearing age prescribed a valproate medicine remain under the care of a specialist or have been referred to secondary care to undertake an annual review – as per the pregnancy prevention programme.

Patients not currently under the care of a specialist team should be referred via existing electronic referral routes. If discharged from specialist follow-up, an attempt should be made to re-engage with the service that originally started valproate. Full details can be found in the [shared care protocol](#). Section 13 has contact details for local specialist teams.

➤ **Growth charts on clinical systems**

Growth charts are available on GP clinical systems and should be used when monitoring children prescribed medication for ADHD, following the relevant [shared care protocol](#). SystmOne growth charts are located in the Clinical Tools menu. EMIS growth charts can be found by pressing the Child Health button on the patient summary page.

➤ **[Shingles vaccination programme: expansion of Shingrix® vaccine eligibility to all those who are severely immunosuppressed and aged 18 years and over](#)**

On 1 September 2025, eligibility for the NHSE Shingles vaccination programme will change from 1 September 2025, the Shingrix shingles vaccine should be offered to:

- all severely immunosuppressed individuals (eligibility as defined in the [Green Book Shingles chapter](#)) from 18 years of age
- immunocompetent individuals who will become eligible for Shingrix vaccine from 60 years of age in a phased implementation over a 10-year period starting with those turning 65 and 70 years of age.