

➤ **Penicillamine Allergy Recording – process for double checking**

Following the NPSA alert – harm from incorrect recording of penicillin allergy as penicillamine allergy, all practices have checked their patient records and submitted their declarations. Practices should strengthen their process for recording allergies.

Including:

- Implement additional checks when non-clinical staff input allergy status. Non-clinical staff may capture information but must flag entries for **clinical validation** before they are saved.
- If **penicillamine** is selected, require a **clinical review** before confirming the entry.
- Introduce a **two-step verification** process when penicillamine is selected:
 - Step 1: Initial entry by staff member.
 - Step 2: Mandatory clinical review before record is confirmed.
- Ensure only **trained clinical staff** (GPs, pharmacists, nurses) can authorise or amend allergy records.
- Reinforce staff training on safe allergy recording.

➤ **Selecting the correct metformin formulation**

There have been recent errors involving metformin tablets where the incorrect formulation has been added to repeat following hospital discharge or clinic letter. Please ensure the correct formulation, standard or modified release (M/R) is chosen. It is recommended that only clinically trained staff add medication to patient records since often clinical expertise is required in undertaking this potentially high-risk task. Please also see [Adding Drugs Top Tips](#).

➤ **NPPG Position statement Choosing an Oral Liquid Medicine for Children**

The Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacist Group has updated the position statement on choosing oral liquid medicines for children. This includes useful information about safety of excipients. <https://nppg.org.uk/choosing-an-oral-liquid-for-a-child/>

➤ **CQC: The safer management of controlled drugs: Annual update 2025**

The annual controlled drug update from CQC highlights some trends regarding controlled drug prescribing. It was highlighted that under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, paramedic independent prescribers are permitted to prescribe a [limited range of controlled drugs](#). It was noted that some paramedic prescribers were prescribing controlled drugs outside what is legally permitted. This includes prescriptions for gabapentin, methylphenidate, oxycodone, pregabalin, tramadol and zopiclone.

Another area of concern highlighted the supply of schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs as emergency supplies via the **Pharmacy First Service**. A reminder that Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs are [not permitted to be supplied through the service](#), except for phenobarbital for the treatment of epilepsy.

Link to full CQC report: [The safer management of controlled drugs: Annual update 2025 - Care Quality Commission](#)

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➤ **Domperidone: new contraindication in patients with phaeochromocytoma due to the risk of severe hypertension.**

The product information has been updated for all domperidone products, to include a contraindication for patients with confirmed or suspected phaeochromocytoma (a rare tumour of the adrenal gland), due to the risk of episodes of severe hypertension. See [Link](#).

➤ **Clozapine – Wim's Protocol**

Clozapine is prescribed by mental health services. If a patient is prescribed clozapine this should be recorded in the patients GP record as [non-practice medication](#). The Royal College of Psychiatrists have published [Wim's Protocol for the safe prescribing and monitoring of clozapine](#). The protocol includes useful information that everyone should know about clozapine This section is aimed primarily at patients, carers, support staff and others without a healthcare background who support people who take clozapine day to day.

Of particular note is the section on smoking tobacco. Tobacco affects the amount of clozapine in the bloodstream. If a patient changes their smoking habits this can affect their clozapine levels requiring dose adjustment. Please also see [Prevention of Future Deaths Report](#)

➤ **Batches of Fostair inhalers without dose counter**

Due to a shortage of dose counters some batches of Fostair 200/6 pMDI will be supplied without a dose counter. See manufacturer information. [Link](#) A reminder that Fostair pMDI is not in the Northamptonshire Asthma Guidelines. The first-choice inhalers are dry powder inhalers. [Asthma Guidelines](#).

This edition is also available on the Primary Care Portal