



# Medicines Optimisation Newsletter



November 2016

Welcome to the NECS Medicines Optimisation Newsletter! The news articles below have all recently appeared on the NECS Medicines website <http://medicines.necu.nhs.uk>.

## Sign up for future news updates

You can sign up for RSS updates which will deliver news articles straight into your inbox when they are published on the website.



You can also follow us on twitter [@necsmedicines](https://twitter.com/necsmedicines) for regular updates and links to useful information.

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## [High Strength, Fixed Combination and Biosimilar Insulin Products: Minimising the Risk of Medication Error](#)

A new document has been posted on the NECS MO website: High Strength, Fixed Combination and Biosimilar Insulin Products: Minimising the Risk of Medication Error. This is a briefing document which summarises the current guidance and recommendations on ways to minimise the risk of medication errors with newer insulin preparations.

[Continue reading >>](#)

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## [Fosfomycin 3g Sachets – Updated product information](#)

Fosfomycin is a broad spectrum antibiotic, used for the treatment of lower UTIs due to ESBL (extended spectrum beta-lactamase) producing bacteria. **Fosfomycin should only be prescribed on the advice of a microbiologist.** A licensed 3g fosfomycin sachet, for the treatment of urinary tract infection on the recommendation of a microbiologist, is now available in the branded form of Monuril®. [Continue reading >>](#)

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## [Retigabine \(Trobalt®\) product withdrawal](#)

Retigabine (Trobalt®) is to be withdrawn from the market in June 2017. This product is being discontinued because of limited and declining use. A letter for healthcare professionals outlines advice for healthcare providers to begin seeking alternative treatment for affected patients, and to withdraw treatment with a gradual dose reduction over at least 3 weeks. No new patients should start retigabine treatment. [Continue reading >>](#)

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## **[MHRA safety alert -Citalopram: suspected drug interaction with cocaine; prescribers should consider enquiring about illicit drug use](#)**

When prescribing selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), prescribers are reminded to enquire about cocaine use when considering drug–drug interactions and the need to avoid concurrent use of multiple serotonergic drugs. They should also note the potential increased risk of bleeding when citalopram is prescribed to patients taking cocaine. Possible interactions with illicit drugs should be considered when prescribing [Continue Reading >>](#)

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## **[Two new articles on the NECS MO website](#)**

Two new articles have been uploaded to the NECS MO website.

[What to do when prescribers join or leave a GP practice](#) – a reference guide covering which forms need completing if prescribers, both Medical and Non-Medical, move practices.

[Useful prescribing information – a guide for prescribers](#). Covering some common prescribing dilemmas that affect clinicians in practice.

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## **[Etoricoxib \(Arcoxia\): revised dose recommendation for rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis](#)**

Prescribing information has been updated to introduce a lower recommended dose of 60 mg daily for patients with rheumatoid arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis. [Continue reading >>](#)

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## **[Free TARGET webinars on antibiotic stewardship](#)**

Public Health England (PHE) and the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) have worked with primary care colleagues to develop a series of 7 free TARGET antibiotics webinars highlighting key, easy actions you can take to help improve your antibiotic prescribing, and at the same time improve the patient experience and their self-care. [Continue Reading >>](#)

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## **[Updated BTS/SIGN British guideline on the management of asthma](#)**

An update to the British guideline on the management of asthma has been published.

The update includes complete revision of diagnosis of asthma and major update to pharmacological management as well as revisions to sections on supported self and non-pharmacological management, management of acute asthma, difficult asthma and organisation and delivery of care. [Continue reading >>](#)

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## **[New sepsis toolkit designed to support GPs with sepsis identification and treatment](#)**

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), in partnership with Health Education England and NHS England, has today launched a new sepsis toolkit to support GPs and healthcare professionals to identify and manage the condition in patients. [Continue reading >>](#)

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## **[Shared decision making: NICE web resources](#)**

A new webpage from NICE details the benefits of shared decision making, and links to current support documents to assist with helping patients make decisions about their care, e.g. patient decision aids (PDAs) and brief decision aids.

Patient decision aids available include:

- Atrial fibrillation: medicines to help reduce your risk of a stroke – what are the options?
- Taking a statin to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Type 2 diabetes in adults: controlling your blood glucose by taking a second medicine – what are your options?

[Continue reading >>](#)

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## **[Who is eligible for the 2016 to 2017 shingles vaccine?](#)**

Public Health England have produced a quick and easy-to-read reference poster guide for patients showing the ages and dates of birth of those who are eligible for the shingles vaccination from 1 September 2016. For local downloading and printing. Who is eligible for the 2016 to 2017 shingles vaccine? [Continue reading >>](#)

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## **[Resources to support the care of patients with acute kidney injury](#)**

NHS Improvement have issued a stage two alert to continue to raise awareness of AKI and signpost clinicians from all care settings, including GPs and community pharmacists, to a set of resources developed by Think Kidneys <https://www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/aki/think-kidney-publications/>.

These resources support the public and staff working in acute, primary and community care to better understand kidney health and to help prevent, identify and manage AKI. [Continue reading >>](#)

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