

## COVID -19 Medicines optimisation key messages for practices – Issue 7

Please send all queries to the team inbox: [MECCG.PIMMS@nhs.net](mailto:MECCG.PIMMS@nhs.net)

Please bear with us as like yourselves we are dealing with many challenges. We will do our best to respond in a timely manner but do consider that queries that have a wider impact may take longer to respond to whilst we seek guidance. We have set up a new page on our website for Covid-19 medicines resources:

<https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/covid-19-resources>

### Update on Clenil Modulite

The manufacturer of Clenil® have released a statement on a change in new batches due to be released from 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Due to increased demand, additional batches of Clenil® Modulite® (beclometasone) 100mcg will be released into the UK supply chain with a different appearance!

- ❖ The colours of the plastic actuator and protective cap are **beige and yellow** respectively (instead of brown and beige respectively). The beige actuator is not embossed;
- ❖ There is no dose indicator, however patients who received Clenil® 100mcg prior to September 2019 (when this feature was added to the inhaler) may not notice that a dose indicator is not included.
- ❖ This change will have no effect on the safety profile (adverse effects) of the medicine, however, patients should: confirm the dosage on the labelling of the outer package and canister and keep a check on when they need a new inhaler

Chiesi have told us that they have good stock levels of all products. Production of all their respiratory products continues uninterrupted at manufacturing sites.

Full details of the update can be found at the following website link: [www.chiesi.uk.com/supply-of-chiesi-products](http://www.chiesi.uk.com/supply-of-chiesi-products)

### Ranitidine shortage

Ranitidine oral preparations as tablets, effervescent tablets and oral solution are expected to be out of stock until further notice due to global regulatory investigations into possible contamination of the active substance with N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a probable carcinogen. Three CAS alerts have been published relating to this shortage.

Proton pump inhibitors are the recommended alternative to ranitidine. There are currently short-term supply issues affecting the alternative H2 antagonists which should therefore be reserved for patients in whom PPIs are unsuitable. Please refer to our Prescribing advice during the shortage of ranitidine ([LINK](#)) for full guidance.

### Yellow card reporting

The MHRA has launched a dedicated Yellow Card reporting site for healthcare products that are used in Coronavirus (COVID-19) treatment to be easily reported:

<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

Healthcare professionals, patients and carers are asked to report all suspected side effects to medicines or medical device adverse incidents related to COVID-19 treatment. This also includes medicines that patients and healthcare professionals are using off-label to treat COVID-19. Refer to the [letter from the MHRA](#) on this update

### Palliative Care Community Pharmacies across East of England

Designated community pharmacies across the East of England, many with extended opening hours, are now commissioned as specialist palliative care pharmacies. They will keep in stock an agreed list of specialist medication to supply on receipt of a prescription during normal business hours. Patients can continue to use their usual local pharmacy but should be made aware of the designated palliative care pharmacy scheme. A patient information leaflet can be found here ([LINK](#))

To find your nearest palliative care pharmacy please go to <https://pcm.prescqipp.info/> and enter your postcode or that of your patient. Pharmacies within a 50km radius are displayed on the map and on a list at the side provides name, telephone number, nhs.net email address and opening hours-with those open flagged **GREEN**.

### Re-Use of Medicines in Care Homes

Due to the current unprecedented impact of COVID-19, DHSC and NHS England and NHS improvement are recommending a relaxation of previous recommendations and the NICE recommended good practice guidance to accommodate re-use of medicines in care homes, under very specific circumstances and only in a crisis situation as outlined.

An Essex wide SOP is being finalised to support implementation, along with planned training for care home staff, pharmacist and other healthcare professionals. The finalised SOP will be posted on the CCG website in the COVID 19 resource folder ([LINK](#))