

Vol.4 Issue 3 September 2023



MEDwatch is the e-bulletin for all NHS Grampian Staff who are involved with patients and medicine management.

Its aim is to improve the safety of medicines by sharing learning, and encouraging adverse event reporting from all staff groups.

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MHRA Drug Safety Newsletters

Latest MHRA Drug Safety Newsletters:

[June 2023](#)

[July 2023](#)

[August 2023](#)

Alerts, Notices & Shared Learning

Safety Alerts: PolyMed issued a [Field Safety Notice](#) via the MHRA advising customers of a potential risk of empty syringes of their 10mL "Polyflush Syringe" 0.9% Sodium Chloride. "Polyflush syringes" syringes pre-filled with 0.9% sodium chloride and are classed as medical devices. Users are advised to follow the safety information in the Instructions for Use (also detailed in the field safety notice) and not use the syringe if solution is not observed.

There has been an occurrence within NHS Grampian and staff are asked to be vigilant for further incidents. If you come across the affected product in your area please report the incident via Datix using the category "**medical device/equipment**" recording the batch number.

New or Updated Medicines Policies, Guidance and Resources

[NHS Grampian Management of Omitted or Delayed Medicines Guideline](#) aims to reduce the incidence of omitted and delayed doses and details the actions which should be taken when a dose of medicine is omitted or delayed.

[Prevention of Omitted Doses Poster](#) described reasons for possible omissions and actions to take to prevent an omitted medicine, can be printed out and displayed in clinical areas.

[NHS Grampian Storage of Medicines within Clinical Areas Policy](#) has been updated, the aim of the policy is to specify the storage requirements of medicines held within clinical areas and reduce the incidence of inadequately and inappropriately stored medicines within NHS Grampian.

[How to Obtain Non-Stock Sub-cutaneous Insulin in ARI](#) describes the process to be followed in ARI when a patient who takes insulin but has not brought it in with them (or does not have enough for the anticipated length of stay) is admitted and the insulin is not stocked in the admitting ward. Can be printed out and displayed in clinical areas.

[Insulin Stock Available in AMIA/Ward 105 Medical](#) list of insulins and devices stocked in AMIA and Ward 105 ARI and advice for prescribers prescribing insulin. Always contact the Diabetes In-patient team if in doubt (contact details on rotawatch).

[Insulin Safety Storage Messages](#) highlights safety messages relating to insulin devices, labelling insulin and the storage of insulin. Can be printed out and displayed in clinical areas.

Patients at Risk of Adrenal Insufficiency and Provision of Steroid Emergency Cards

Shared by Alison Milne, Endocrine Specialist Nurse (alison.milne4@nhs.scot)

"Following on from previous announcements and information regarding this important subject, the Endocrinology team are continuing to deliver and support Steroid Education within NHS Grampian. We encourage teams to appoint a steroid champion primarily to support their own staff but also to liaise with the Endocrine Team and participate in an individualised MDT for their speciality.

I am pleased to confirm that there is now up to date information available on the Endocrinology Grampian Guidance page which will hopefully help with clinical decisions regarding patients at risk of adrenal insufficiency. [Endocrinology \(sharepoint.com\)](#) (see Adrenal Section).

There is also a dedicated Steroid advice email gram.steroidadvice@nhs.scot which is monitored on a regular basis."

Parkinson's Get It On Time

June Brown, Executive Nurse Director, pledged in May 2022 that NHS Grampian will support Parkinson's UK work on time critical medication "[Get It On Time](#)". For Parkinson's patients incorrect or missing medicines doses can cause a decline in mobility and swallow leading to an increased in length of stay and increased level of dependence whilst in hospital. Medicines doses are varied and often given at times outside of usual drug rounds. Our aim is that missed or late doses should never happen. As an organisation we are committed to ensuring patients receive their medicines on time and we are taking this opportunity to share some information and resources wards can access to support this work.

All staff are encouraged to watch this 3 minute video [Time Matters: It's Critical](#) which raises awareness of why it is so important for Parkinson's patients to receive their medicine on time.

Clinical staff are also asked to watch this 15 minute video, available in Turas, [Parkinson's - Get It On Time, Saving You Time](#). The video highlights key symptoms and issues that can impact on a person with Parkinson's and their care when admitted

to a hospital ward. The video aims to improve care for people with Parkinson's in hospital by:

- increasing knowledge and understanding of Parkinson's
- better understanding the needs of people living with Parkinson's and their families
- recognising the importance of time sensitive medicines management
- identifying the resources available to improve practice in hospitals.

Patients diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease have an alert added to **Trakcare**, when the patient is admitted to hospital the alert will flag and serve as a reminder to prescribe and administer the patient's medicines at the appropriate time.

The [NHS Grampian Guideline for Prescribing Parkinson's Disease \(PD\) Medication in Hospital](#) provides guidance on the following:

- Prescribing Parkinson's Disease medication
- Stock locations to obtain supplies of PD medication out of hours
- Nil by mouth guidance and links to medication dose calculator

Other relevant policies are the [NHS Grampian Management of Omitted or Delayed Medicines Guideline](#) and [Prevention of Omitted Doses Poster](#) mentioned earlier in this newsletter and the [NHS Grampian Policy for Self-Administration of Medicines \(SAM\) in Hospital](#).

Parkinson's UK Medication Clocks are available to order via the [NHS Grampian Health Information Resources Service](#). Designed and produced for free by Parkinson's UK, these re-usable, laminated clocks and can be used for Parkinson's patients in hospital or care homes. Patients with Parkinson's Disease often take medicines outwith the usual drug round times, by writing the time the patient is next due their medicine on the clock it serves as a reminder to staff enabling patients to get their medicine on time.

Orders for clocks can be placed via the [HIRS](#) by searching for "Parkinson's Medication Clock" or item code: L44001. If you do not already have an HIRS account you will

need to register first (see website for details). Please only order what is needed for your area and remember to clean and re-use them.

A Guide for Senior Charge Nurses with information on Time Critical Medicines and Parkinson's UK resources is currently being tested in a small number of wards.

More information on the Parkinson's UK Get It On Time campaign can be found at their [website](#).

Medicines Sick Day Rules Cards

After being out of stock for some time Medicines Sick Day Rules Cards are now available to order through the [NHS Grampian Health Information Resources Service](#) (HIRS). The new NHS Grampian card has been updated to include SGLT2 inhibitors (approved by Healthcare Improvement Scotland) and should be given to patients on any of the following medicines:

- ACE inhibitors: Medicines ending in "pril"
- ARBs: Medicine names ending in "Sartan"
- Diuretics: e.g. furosemide, bendroflumethiazide
- Metformin: a medicine for diabetes
- NSAID's: e.g. Ibuprofen, Diclofenac, Naproxen
- SGLT2 inhibitors: Medicines ending in "gliflozin"

The Medicines Sick Day Rules card gives the patient advice on what to do if they are on any of the groups of medicines listed above and they become unwell with vomiting, diarrhoea or fever, sweats and shaking.

The new card has a larger section for adding a medicine, not on the list, that the healthcare professional may consider appropriate to stop when the patient becomes unwell.

Please use up existing stock first, once existing stock has been depleted Medicines Sick Day Rules Cards can be ordered from [HIRS](#) by searching for "sick day rules" or

item code: L30151. If you do not already have an HRS account you will need to register first (see website for details).

More information on Medicine Sick Day Rules Cards can be found on the Scottish Patient Safety Programme [web pages](#).

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