

**COMMUNITY PHARMACY DEVELOPMENT TEAM WEEKLY UPDATE**

***Wed 18th October 2023***

*We hope that you will take some time to read the information below and share with the whole team*.

Dawn, Ellen Jo and Fiona

<https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-boards/nhs-lothian/>

Twitter: @nhslcommpharm

* **!!IMPORTANT!! Semaglutide / GLP1’s** - there have been reports of intermittent stock availability of Semaglutide. While stock supplies remain limited please consider the following if you hold any **balance scripts/owings**for this item:

*The Diabetes MCN stance remains and patients should be reviewed on an individual basis to ensure item is still clinically appropriate and/or changes made to diabetes medications if necessary. Re-supplying any outstanding balances/owings of GLP1’s to patients who may have had their diabetes regimens changed presents a possible patient safety risk through possible administration of incorrect diabetic regimens.*

* **Sodium Valproate -**please [**click here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-pack-dispensing-of-valproate-containing-medicines/full-pack-dispensing-of-valproate-containing-medicines) for an update from the MHRA on the dispensing of Valproate-containing products. We would encourage pharmacy teams to read and understand this guidance - it effectively **mandates original pack dispensing of these products**, with a few exceptions which can be made following assessment on a patient-by-patient basis.  **Please also ensure your Relief and Locum staff are made aware.**

* **GP Emailed Prescriptions –**we’re still hearing of high numbers of prescriptions still being emailed to pharmacies from GP surgeries. The emailing of scripts was useful during extreme pressures as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, but current guidance now is that emailed scripts should be reserved for **emergencies only** e.g. antibiotics, or an urgent script where the pharmacy has already done their daily pick up from the surgery.  We are issuing regular comms to Primary Care about this, but if you see any instances of this yourself, please discuss and work locally with your Primary Care teams to resolve this.  A quick reminder also that pharmacies shouldn’t be taking barcodes over the phone nor dispensing CDs until the hard copy has arrived at the pharmacy.

 **We hope that you are all keeping well. Please get in touch with us if there is anything you would like to see more information on or if you have any questions.**

**The Community Pharmacy Development Team**

**Royal Edinburgh Hospital**