

Medicines Matters

Issue 43 – 27th January 2026



The following new content has been uploaded to the Medicines Optimisation site on the Primary Care intranet up to the date of this circulation and can be accessed here [Medicines optimisation – Lancashire and South Cumbria Primary Care Intranet](#)

[Prescribing guidance – Lancashire and South Cumbria Primary Care Intranet](#)

- **Medicines Matters bulletin issue 37** - Avoiding concurrent prescription of Weak and Strong Opioids
- **Medicines Matters bulletin issue 38** - DOAC monitoring and Creatinine Clearance
- **Medicines Matters bulletin issue 39** - Formulary update December 2025
- **Medicines Matters bulletin issue 40** – Rybelsus® (oral semaglutide): risk of medication error update January 2026
- **Medicines Matters bulletin issue 41** – ONS monitoring / Appropriate prescribing
- **Medicines Matters bulletin issue 42** – Clostridioides difficile infection treatment options
- **Other Prescribing guidance**
 - **Update on the ICB process for outbreaks of Seasonal Influenza in community settings:**
The ICB have commissioned the Out of Hours providers in the localities, document added.
 - **Update on the ICB process for outbreaks of Scabies prophylaxis in community settings:**
The ICB have commissioned the Out of Hours providers in the localities, document added and list of providers.

[MO LES Resources 2025 2026](#)

- **Resources**
 - Diabetes - Switching SGLT2 inhibitors to Dapagliflozin in line with NHSE recommendations
 - A switch protocol explaining the rationale and process for the switch
 - A search bundle to identify groups of patients
 - A FAQ document answering some of the commonly asked questions from patients following a switch
 - A patient letter that can be used to inform patients of the switch to dapagliflozin
 - A SMS message that can be used to inform patients of the switch to dapagliflozin
 - Medicines of dependence
 - Opioid priority patients
 - A search bundle to identify groups of patients
 - A document explaining the criteria for the searches
 - Gabapentinoid patients
 - A search to gather the audit data
 - An Excel template to support analysis of the audit data
 - An instruction document explaining how to use the EMIS search and Excel template to run the audit

[Supply Issues](#)

- **Local Supply updates and Guidance** - Shortage of Co-codamol 30/500mg tablets
 - Co-codamol shortage communication document
 - Medicine Safety Notice - co-codamol 30/500mg tablets
 - EMIS search

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Clinical Areas

Respiratory – Guidelines

- Asthma treatment guidelines for Adults (aged 12 and over)
- Asthma treatment guidelines for Children - please note this guideline is currently under review to align with NICE NG245.
- NICE NG 245: Asthma: Diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management BTS, NICE, SIGN
- COPD Desktop guideline
- NICE NG 115: COPD in over 16s: Diagnosis and management

Respiratory - Practice Resources

- SABA reduction
 - **Asthma: AIR and MART Quick Reference Inhaler Guide** - Updated document - discontinued inhaler removed, version number and review date added

Nutrition - ONS Audit

- **EMIS ONS Search and Auto Report** - Search to find patients with ONS on their CURRENT medication screen and issued within the past 6 months. (Exclusions: patients <15 years old, end of life, palliative, PEG, NG, JEJ coded patients).
- The Auto report included with the search highlights the details of the most recent ONS RX issued (including NHS cost) and most recent patient height, weight and BMI monitoring. NOTE: It is advised that weight monitoring should be taken MONTHLY for these patients. The results could be used to identify gaps in monitoring.

Nutrition - Additional ONS Resources

- **AccuRX ONS monitoring request example** – an example text message template to request ONS monitoring for patients with optional attachments which can be found below.
- **Letter for community patient ONS monitoring request example** - an example letter template to request ONS monitoring for patients with optional attachments which can be found below.
- **Template for care home resident patient ONS monitoring request example** - an example template to request ONS monitoring for patients residing in care homes with additional information on how to obtain an estimated BMI reading.
- **Making the most of your food yellow leaflet** - This leaflet provides some simple ideas on how to get the most nutrition from the food you are eating.
- **Meal adaptation example table** – A simple example of how to increase protein and calorie intake in a day's meals.
- **BAPEN MUST toolkit** - Refers to the Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool which helps healthcare professionals create care plans based on BMI, unintentional weight loss, and acute illness impact. More information can be found on the BAPEN website

CNS - Resources to explore with patients who are in pain

- **Moving Medicine** - The ultimate resource for healthcare professionals - The ultimate resource to help healthcare professionals integrate physical activity conversations into routine clinical care.
- **Find Support & Activities - Moving Medicine** - Use the finder to look for activities and support that you might be interested in taking part in.