Prescribing Tip No.321

Date: 4th June 2021

Prescribing tip for information

**Steroid Emergency Cards - Information, References, and web links.**

A [National Patient Safety Alert](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-patient-safety-alert-steroid-emergency-card-to-support-early-recognition-and-treatment-of-adrenal-crisis-in-adults/) (NatPSA) was issued in August 2020 in relation to the roll out of Steroid Emergency Cards to support the early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in **adults.**

Actions highlighted by the alert were **due for completion by 13 May 2021**. Failure to take the actions required under this NatPSA **may** lead to CQC taking regulatory action.

The following prescribing tip is a collation of links and resources (not exhaustive) which practices may find useful as references when rolling out this programme of work.

**Resources to support with the identification of patients at risk of adrenal insufficiency.**

* [Guidance on issuing the Steroid Emergency Card in adults – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/advice-on-issuing-the-steroid-emergency-card-update-23rd-december-2020/)
* PrescQIPP (<https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/webkits/hot-topics/.>) have also developed a series of resources including Emis Web searches and ‘A guide to implementing the Steroid Emergency Card NatPSA’.

The PrescQIPP site also contains:

* a useful patient information leaflet which explains to patients the purpose of a Steroid Emergency Card.
* an Emis web protocol – which prompts the prescriber to print the patient leaflet and will automatically enter the read code ‘Emergency Steroid Card issued’ when the leaflet is printed.

**Ordering Steroid Emergency Cards**

* Details for placing orders for Steroid Emergency Cards can be found [here](https://www.endocrinology.org/adrenal-crisis).

**NB**. Steroid Emergency Cards are **intended for use alongside** existing Steroid Treatment Cards (blue cards)

**Steroid sick day rules patient leaflet**

* A patient leaflet explaining sick day rules for patients prescribed steroids can be found [here](https://www.endocrinology.org/media/4142/ai-and-exogenous-steroids_pis_final.pdf)

Other useful documents -

  

**To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302**

**If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips please contact Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net**