



Welcome - We will start at 12:30
Sheffield Area Prescribing Group – Learning
Lunch

5th February 2026
Sheffield Medicines and Prescribing



Introductions

- Shameila Afsar-Baig – Senior Pharmacist (S&D Sheffield Place)
- Jenni Bussey – Lead Clinical Effectiveness Pharmacy Technician (SY ICB)
- Diana Vasile – Lead Pharmacist (S&D Sheffield Place)
- Sharron Kebell - Senior Pharmacist (SY ICB)
- Kirsty Burdett - Senior Pharmacist- Endocrine Lead (SY ICB)
- Helen Taylor – Clinical Practice Pharmacist (S&D Sheffield Place)

House Keeping





Learning objectives

To be aware of latest updates & suggested actions:

- Migraine prevention - gepants
- IMOC Approved Traffic Light Drug List/ NICE Guidelines
- IMOC approved/updated guidelines
- DMARDs
- Denosumab
- CKD guidance, Medication discontinuation/supply issue
- Medicines Safety update
- Education & Training opportunities
- Summary





Traffic Light Drug List



Drug	Indication/Info	SY ICB Traffic Light Status
Ondansetron		GREEN
Gluten Free bread/ Flour mixes	SY position statement- not for primary care prescribing.	GREY
Denosumab Biosimilar Stoboclo®	SCP has ben updated to reflect the change from Prolia	Amber
Apomorphine (<i>new sublingual film formulation</i>)	Intermittent treatment of “OFF” episodes in adults with Parkinson’s disease which are not sufficiently controlled by oral anti-Parkinson medication	Amber

***** Please note: SY ICB GREY TLS is equivalent to BLACK on Sheffield’s TLDL*****

- To access both **SY ICB TLDL** and Sheffield place TLDL: **SY MOT website:** <https://mot.southyorkshire.icb.nhs.uk>
- Optimise Rx will be updated with all IMOC approved TLDL changes.
- Avoid adding any RED medicines prescribed by hospital to patient’s repeat record. Add as ‘hospital only drug’





NICE TA - Approved

NICE TA	Indication	SY ICB Traffic Light Status
NICE TA 113	Glofitamab with gemcitabine and oxaliplatin for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.	RED
NICE TA 1114	Talquetamab for treating relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma after 3 or more treatments.	RED
NICE TA 1115	Vutrisiran for treating transthyretin amyloidosis with cardiomyopathy.	RED
NICE TA 1116	Obecabtagene autoleucel for treating relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.	RED



IMOC approved (Oct 25) – Gepants for Migraine Prevention (Amber G)

- Rimegepant and Atogepant can both be used for migraine prevention in line with their respective NICE TAs
- Rimegepant is dual therapy – acute migraine treatment (**GREEN**) and prevention of episodic migraine (alternate days)
- Atogepant is taken daily for prevention of episodic and chronic migraine
- Patients will get 1st 12 weeks from STH then request transfer to primary care

Book onto Education Event next week **Tuesday 10th Feb 12.30pm– 1pm**
(Presenters Dr McKevitt, Consultant Neurologist and Nicky Hannay, Specialist Nurse at STH Headache Service).

Please be aware of new/updated Migraine documents and change in TLDL status on MOT website (by 6th Feb):

- New amber-G documents for rimegepant and atogepant
- Updated: SY Migraine Management, rimegepant fact sheet and PIL





IMOC approved guidelines (Jan '26)

- SY ICS 7 day prescribing position statement
 - Presented by Claire Thomas (Strategic Pharmacist) and Dr Krishna Kasaraneni (GP)
 - Sheffield and Barnsley are high prescribers of 7 day prescriptions
 - CPSY have produced a suite of resources to support community pharmacies with this
 - They have an event planned called 'Pharmacy Business - Back to basics' to try to myth bust and support contractors. External speakers will attend to help pharmacy teams understand pharmacy business
- Updated SY Denosumab SCP
 - Kirsty to share details today



IMOC approved guidelines (Jan '26)

- Tirzepatide- weight management Patient Information booklet (IMOC requested a 2 page quick read PIL)
 - 13 page booklet adapted from STH
 - This booklet includes:
 - How your new medication works.
 - How long you may be prescribed tirzepatide.
 - How to keep you safe in the short and long term.
 - How to reduce side effects.
 - Dietary/Activity advice and tips.
 - Useful websites, apps and other leaflets.
- Tirzepatide weight management Guidance documents & Quick Reference Guide
 - Updated to include clarifications on weight loss expectations and retinopathy referral guidance
 - In Nov IMOC requested a quick reference guide for clinicians to use in primary care
- SY Gluten free position statement, will be uploaded to MO website soon
 - Exec Board decision in December 2025 to decommission the prescribing of GF bread and Flour mixes.
 - The position statement **applies to all ages** however prescribers have clinical discretion to act in an individual patient's best interest where exceptional clinical circumstances apply.



Denosumab – Biosimilar Update

- Prolia® (Amgen) is the denosumab 60 mg reference product as mentioned in the [South Yorkshire Shared Care Protocol for Denosumab](#)
- From 1 January 2026, denosumab 60 mg biosimilars are available – all in a pre-filled syringe
- [Biosimilars](#) offer the same clinical effectiveness and safety as their reference products, but usually at substantially lower cost
- [Stoboclo®](#) is the regionally assigned brand and corresponding messages will be added to Optimise Rx
- There will be a significant cost saving with Stoboclo® compared with reference product
- [SPS](#) and [PrescQIPP](#) have provided some resources including patient information leaflets and audit tools.
- Update to the SCP was approved at January IMOC to be uploaded to intranet in due course.
- Note: it is currently NOT available to prescribe on the clinical systems (not on DM&D). Will communicate once it is available to prescribe

Actions:

- Search for patients on Prolia® / denosumab 60 mg.
- Review when next injection due for patients.
- Familiarise yourselves with the [SY Biosimilar Position Statement](#)
- Look out for further communication regarding SCP update
- Once available to prescribe change patient over to [Stoboclo®](#)/ document consent /ensure patient is up-to date with product prescribed / please ensure prescribed by brand.
- Ensure patients are being given injection in a timely manner i.e. every 6 months and the importance of checking calcium levels prior to administration



Review prescribing in your practice as per above advice

Sheffield CKD guideline: minor update

[Sheffield CKD Management in Adults a Guideline for Primary Care v1.4](#) updates:

Kidney Failure Risk Equation (KFRE) that estimates a patient's 5-year risk of needing renal replacement therapy:

- The information on automatic reporting of the KFRE score has been removed from page 3 due to ongoing issues with laboratory reporting results
- if you require KFRE for your patient please calculate it using [The Kidney Failure Risk Equation](#) **OR** request it using “CKD Monitoring” in ICE

SGLT2i prescribing:

- Step 2 of the Modify Risk of CKD Progression, page 2, now reads: offer [SGLT2i](#) *if appropriate. See prescribing criteria on page 4*
- Choice of SGLT2i: dapagliflozin OR empagliflozin, see **Stepwise Approach to Prescribing SGLT2 inhibitors** on page 4
- See eligibility for prescribing generic dapagliflozin (as of 17 Sept 2025)

Patient cohorts	Generic dapagliflozin eligibility
T2DM (may have other co-morbidities including CKD and HF)	Yes
HF	Yes
CKD without T2DM	No



- Use the online calculator for the [Kidney Failure Risk Equation](#)
- Familiarise yourself with the updates on SGLT2i prescribing criteria and eligibility for prescribing generic dapagliflozin



Medicines Discontinuation



South Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board

MSN/2024/027U UPDATE Fiasp FlexTouch Insulin aspart 100units/ml prefilled pens

- **Fiasp® FlexTouch® (insulin aspart) 100units/ml pre-filled pens have been discontinued. Supplies were exhausted in March 2024.**
- Fiasp® Penfill® (insulin aspart) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml **cartridges remain available** and can support increased demand.

MSN/2023/053U UPDATE Tresiba FlexTouch Insulin degludec 100units/ml pens

- **Tresiba® FlexTouch® (insulin degludec) 100units/ml pens have been discontinued. Supplies were exhausted in July 2023.**
- Tresiba® Penfill® (insulin degludec) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml **cartridges remain available** and can support increased demand.

Based on OpenPrescribing data as of September 2025, there were still some prescribing activity in Sheffield, although this was minimal. The affected practices were informed at the beginning of January'26

For advice on compatible reusable pens and needles for each cartridge, please refer to [Back to Back Chart SY June 25 \(1\) review September 2026.pptx](#) .

The Sheffield formulary choice for insulin pen needles remains Insupen Original, see [Sheffield Formulary Endocrine.pdf](#)



- Do not initiate patients on the affected pre-filled insulin pens
- Review Fiasp and Tresiba prescribing in your practice and switch to cartridges and reusable pens

Sheffield Guideline DMARD quick ref guide.pdf - a Minor Update

This document has been updated which now includes latest hyperlinks to DMARD shared care protocols (SCPs)



Sheffield Area Prescribing Group

Quick Reference Guide - Ongoing Monitoring Requirements for Drugs affecting the Immune Response (DMARDs) in rheumatology, gastroenterology and dermatology adult services

See individual shared care protocols for full prescribing and monitoring requirements, as per below:

Drug	FBC, extended* LFTs, U&E/creatinine/eGFR, CRP for rheumatology patients	Other
Sheffield Shared Care Azathioprine and Mercaptopurine	Every 3 months	
Sheffield Shared Care Hydroxychloroquine		Baseline retinal monitoring then annual retinal monitoring after 5 yrs treatment or if high risk
Sheffield Shared Care Leflunomide	Every 3 months	BP at each monitoring visit. Frequency of any weight monitoring will be advised by specialist
Sheffield Shared Care Methotrexate	Every 3 months	
Sheffield Shared Care Mycophenolate	Every 3 months	
Sheffield Shared Care Sulfasalazine	Every 3 months until stable blood levels for a year then can stop	

Please note that for any blood test results that are out of range, please refer back to the relevant full shared care protocol

* extended LFTs = Total Protein, Albumin, Alkaline Phosphatase, ALT, AST, Total Bilirubin and GGT

Guideline developed by: Sharron Kebell, Senior Pharmacist - High cost drugs, SY ICB. Approved by APG: November 2025 Review Date: November 2028

Ensure colleagues are aware of document, which is a useful summary of the DMARD SCPs in use





Medicines Safety Alerts

Mesalazine and Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension

Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) has been very rarely reported in patients treated with mesalazine.

Following a recent review, warnings for IIH are being added to the product information for all mesalazine products.

Open prescribing shows 1216 items prescribed in Sheffield in October 2025; 14,799 items in the last 12m (Nov 2024 - Oct 2025).

A recent clinical system search identified 1pt in Sheffield who has a code for IIH and who are on repeat prescriptions of mesalazine. The GP practice involved has been contacted.

For primary care, the key actions are:

Warn patients on mesalazine to report symptoms of IIH, such as severe or recurrent headache, visual disturbances, or tinnitus.

Remain vigilant for signs of IIH in patients taking mesalazine; if suspected, consider discontinuing mesalazine and refer urgently for multidisciplinary management



Medicines Safety

Class 3 Medicines Recall: Zambon SpA, Emylif 50mg orodispersible film

Zambon SpA is recalling an affected batch as a precautionary measure due to out of specification results for unknown impurities during ongoing stability testing.

Recall at pharmacy and wholesaler level as a precautionary measure - Stop supplying the specified batch immediately. Quarantine all stock from this batch and return it to suppliers. Other batches are not affected and may be supplied as per the printed expiry date.

No further action is required by patients.

Open prescribing shows 2 items prescribed in Sheffield in October 2025; 14 items in the last 12m.

Class 3 Medicines Recall: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Atorvastatin 20mg and 80mg Film-coated Tablets

Sun Pharma UK Limited are recalling the batches of tablets specified in the table as a precautionary measure due to failing dissolution test results reported during ongoing stability studies.

The recall is being actioned at the wholesaler level as a precautionary measure. Healthcare Professionals are to stop supplying the batches immediately. Quarantine all remaining stock and return it to suppliers. Patients should continue to take medicines as prescribed.

MHRA Class 3 Medicines Recall: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Fingolimod SUN 0.5mg hard capsules

Sun Pharma UK Limited is conducting a precautionary recall of a single batch of Fingolimod SUN 0.5 mg hard capsules due to reports of capsule breakage on removing from the blister. No other batches of Fingolimod SUN 0.5mg hard capsules are impacted.

The recall is being actioned at the wholesaler and pharmacy levels. Healthcare professionals to stop supplying the above batch immediately. Quarantine all remaining stock and return it to your supplier using your supplier's approved process.



Medicines Safety

MHRA news: Tamoxifen: update to product information on QT prolongation and monitoring recommendations for high-risk patients

Current clinical guidelines identify tamoxifen as a medicine with potential to prolong QT interval on an electrocardiogram (ECG), although the risk of Torsade de Pointes (TdP) is considered low.

- Healthcare professionals are advised to monitor ECG and electrolytes before and during tamoxifen treatment in patients with risk factors for QT prolongation, including those with cardiac comorbidities or taking QT-prolonging medicines.
- Patients should be informed of this potential risk and advised to report symptoms such as palpitations, dizziness, or fainting.

NatPSA: Risk Associated With Adult Breathing Circuits Lacking A Patent Exhalation Route

Risk of harm from incorrectly assembled breathing circuits lacking proper exhalation routes for patients receiving invasive or non-invasive ventilatory support. The alert has been sent to GP Practices for information as they may have patients who use these breathing circuits.



Education and Training

- Managing Actinic Keratosis (AK) - Diagnosis and management in primary care with Dr Thomas King Consultant Dermatologist, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.

Tuesday 24 February 2026 @ 12:30 to 1:30 pm (webinar)

[Click here to register](#)





Education and Training

- Gepants in primary care - A new class for acute and preventive treatment of migraine

Dr Fiona McKeivitt, Consultant Neurologist, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals CASES Mentor & Nicky Hannay, Headache Specialist Nurse, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Tuesday 10 February 2025 | 12:30 to 1:00 pm | Webinar

[Click here to register](#)



Session outline:

- To discuss the new gepant treatments for migraine
- Where gepants fit in the pathway and who may benefit
- To explain traffic light status for atogepant and rimegepant in migraine treatment
- How gepants different from other migraine treatments available in primary care
- Safety and efficacy: what to expect in practice
- Side effects and monitoring: practical tips
- Treatment journey and therapeutic goals
- Q&A session



Education and Training



Denise Rosembert, Consultant Pharmacist
Clinical Credibility, System Impact: A Non-
Traditional Route to Consultant-Level
Prescribing Leadership -
Wednesday 11th February 1-2pm

All registered subscribers can [sign up here](#)



Sheffield ICB already subscribes to PrescQIPP, which means you can access a vast range of evidence-based, quality assured resources free.

[Sign up to PrescQIPP today](#)

[Flyer for practice/PCN pharmacists and pharmacy technicians](#)



Education and Training

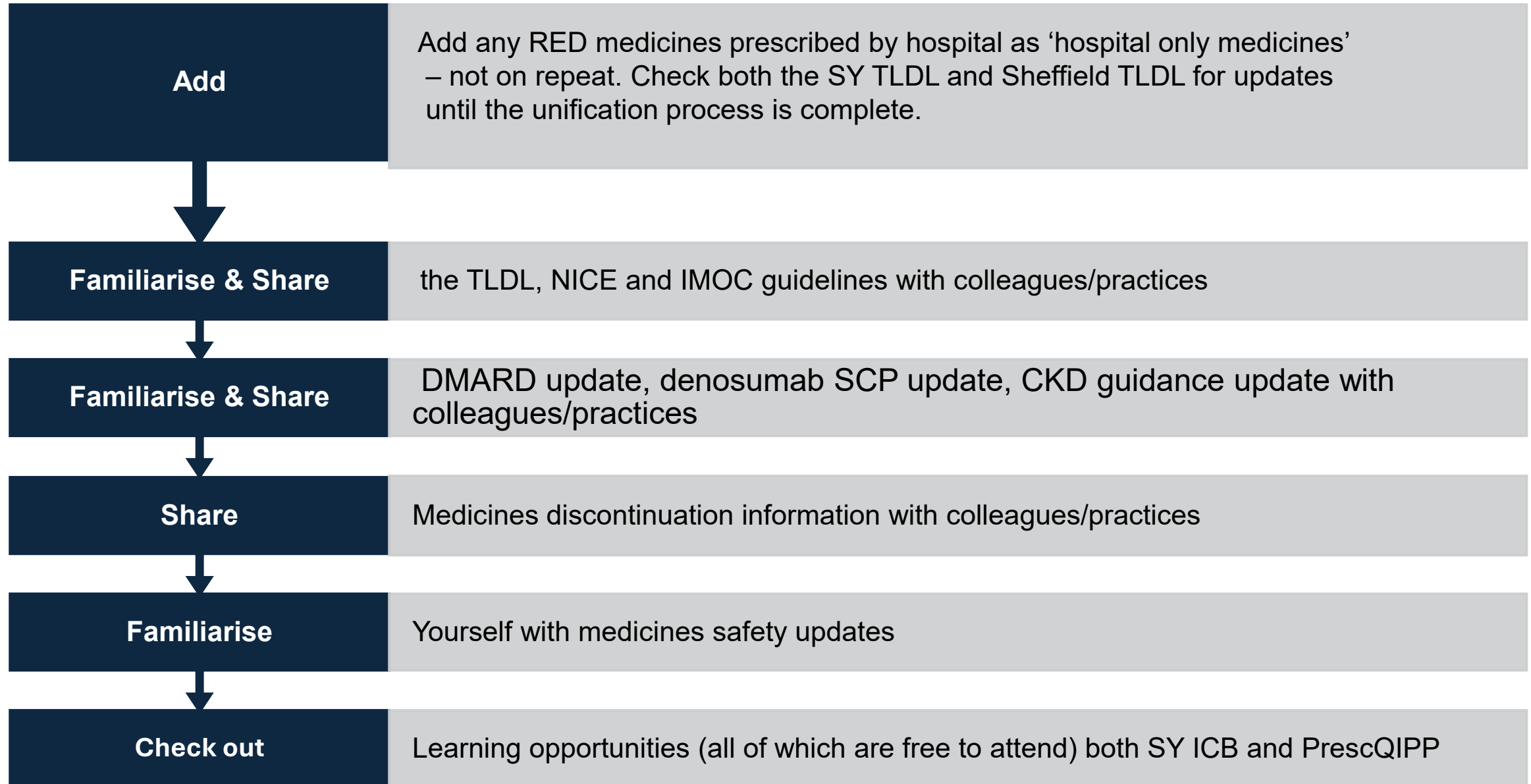


Talking Meds is available to listen to via your usual podcast system and a new episode will come out every fortnight, on the first and third Friday of each month.

Engaging conversations about medicines hosted by Jonathan Underhill who chats with a guest at each episode about current medical issues and clinical dilemmas.



Summary of Key Actions





Next APG– Learning Lunch

Thursday 5th March [click here to join the meeting now](#)

Feedback welcome.
Feedback forms can be found [here](#)



If there are any issues you would like to raise or report to Sheffield Area Prescribing Group, please send these direct to the APG mailbox: syicb-sheffield.areaprescribinggroupsheffield@nhs.net