



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

**5th March 2026**  
**Sheffield Medicines and Prescribing**



# Introductions

- Shameila Afsar-Baig – Senior Pharmacist (S&D Sheffield Place)
- Jenni Bussey – Lead Clinical Effectiveness Pharmacy Technician (SY ICB)
- Kirsty Burdett – Senior Pharmacist (SYICB Endocrine Lead, Clinical Effectiveness)

## House Keeping





# Learning objectives

To be aware of latest updates & suggested actions:

- IMOC Approved Traffic Light Drug List/ NICE Guidelines
- IMOC approved/updated guidelines
- New NICE NG28 guidance
- Medication supply issues
  - Fluoxetine 20mg capsule
  - Propafenone (Arythmol®) 150mg tablets
- Vitamin B12 guidance/ Denosumab update
- Medicines Safety update
- Education & Training opportunities
- Summary





# Traffic Light Drug List



Drug	Indication/Info	SY ICB Traffic Light Status
Roclanda	previously treated primary open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension	<b>Amber G</b>
Buprenorphine	Opioid dependence	<b>Red</b>
Buprenorphine	Pain	<b>Green</b>
Daridorexant	For insomnia although NICE recommend CBT, this is currently not available.	<b>Green</b>
Relugolix	RED for Prostate Ca pending for primary care use due to commissioning arrangements not in place	<b>Red</b>
Rimegepant and Atogepant	Updated migraine documents now on MO website	<b>Amber G</b>



**\*\*\* 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'



# Traffic Light Drug List



Drug	Indication/Info	SY ICB Traffic Light Status
<b>Progesterone 400mg soft vaginal capsules (new formulation Prometrium®)</b>	Indicated for the prevention of miscarriage in women presenting with bleeding in the first trimester of pregnancy and have a history of recurrent miscarriages	<b>Amber G</b>
<b>Varenicline (new Brancaster Pharma formulation with &lt;37ng/day nitrosamine)</b>	Smoking cessation in adults	<b>Varenicline is already Green</b> For information: This is a new generic formulation of varenicline.
<b>Primidone</b>	Essential tremor	<b>Green</b>



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# NICE TA - Approved

NICE TA	Indication	SY ICB Traffic Light Status
<b>Dostarlimab</b> with platinum-containing chemotherapy	Treating primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer with microsatellite stability or mismatch repair proficiency ( <a href="#">NICE TA1117</a> )	<b>Already RED in line with positive NICE TAs</b>
<b>Venetoclax</b> with obinutuzumab	For untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia ( <a href="#">NICE TA1119</a> )	<b>Already RED in line with positive NICE TAs</b>
<b>Avelumab</b> with axitinib	For untreated advanced renal cell carcinoma ( <a href="#">NICE TA1120</a> )	<b>Already RED in line with positive NICE TAs</b>
<b>Acoramidis</b>	For treating transthyretin amyloidosis with cardiomyopathy ( <a href="#">NICE TA1121</a> )	<b>RED</b>
<b>Amivantamab</b> with lazertinib	For untreated EGFR mutation-positive advanced non-small-cell lung cancer ( <a href="#">NICE TA1122</a> )	<b>Already RED in line with positive NICE TAs</b>



# IMOC approved guidelines (Feb '26)

- Tirzepatide weight management PIL (short version 2 page)
- Relugolix SCP decision was paused as commissioning arrangements are not in place this will return once sorted
- Daridorexant PIL (subject to minor amendments)
- SY Asthma Guideline
- SY COPD Guideline (Sheffield Formulary updated to include addition of Spiolto Respimat)
- Update to the migraine pathway documents as per SIGN/BASH (now on MO website)
- 3rd party ordering PIL- supports the ICB PS and practices may find useful



# NICE NG28 T2DM guidance in Adults

- On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 NICE published updated guidance on managing type 2 diabetes.
- The central message is a shift from a glucose-focused, stepwise escalation model towards early cardiorenal protection, personalised risk management, stronger safety processes, wider technology adoption, and active reduction of health inequalities.
- Further info and training has been shared in the practice bulletins (16/2 and 2/3)



# Medicines Supply Notification- Propafenone



South Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board

Propafenone (Arythmol® ) 150mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact\* Date of issue: 17/02/2026 Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Propafenone is indicated for prophylaxis and treatment of:

- ventricular arrhythmias
- paroxysmal supraventricular tachyarrhythmias which include paroxysmal atrial flutter/fibrillation

In Sheffield 12 items in Dec 25 and 154 items in the last 12 months (Jan-Dec 25)



# Medicines Supply Notification- Propafenone

- Clinicians should not initiate new patients on propafenone 150mg tablets until the supply issue has resolved.
- Where patients have insufficient supply to last until the re-supply date, clinicians, with advice from secondary care specialists, should consider:
- Prescribing flecainide tablets, taking into account medical and treatment history, previous hypersensitivity and adverse reactions, and ensure patient is counselled on the appropriate dose (see supporting information); or
- Where the above option is not suitable and propafenone is preferred agent, consider if dosing regimen can be increased to 300mg twice a day, ensuring the patient is counselled on the increase in dose, and consider an ECG to check QRS duration within 2 weeks of dose change (see supporting information).
- If the above options are not appropriate the patient should be referred to secondary care specialists for a management plan.



# Medicines Supply Notification

## Fluoxetine

### 16th Feb Practice Bulletin

- We are aware of supply issues with Fluoxetine 20mg Capsules. The 3 main pharmacy wholesalers are either out of stock of Fluoxetine 20mg or have it at an inflated price.
- This means that some pharmacies cannot obtain any stock or may be unable to afford stock at prices above the drug tariff price.
- As this is a high volume/commonly prescribed medicine we are requesting local collaboration between pharmacies and practices to ensure replacement prescriptions are provided in a timely manner to ensure continuity of supply for patients.



# Medicines Supply Notification Fluoxetine

## Action for prescribers:

- Please support requests for alternative prescriptions for fluoxetine 20mg when they come through from your local pharmacies. We suggest this is done as a one-off acute issue, retaining the 20mg capsules on repeat.
- If you haven't already started using AccuRx for out of stock medicines requests from pharmacies please consider implementing this process as it does help to make workload associated with out of stocks significantly more efficient for you and your patients.
- If you require more information or support using this, please get in touch: [syicb.medsoptid@nhs.net](mailto:syicb.medsoptid@nhs.net)



# Medicines Supply Notification

## Fluoxetine

- Recommended medicine substitutions if fluoxetine 20mg capsules are not available:

Original Rx:	Recommended substitution:
1 x 20mg	2x10mg capsules
2x20mg	40mg capsule
3x20mg	60mg capsule*

- \*NOTE, if the patient is on a 60mg daily dose, prescribing as a 60mg capsule is more cost effective than prescribing 3 x20mg capsules, consider changing repeat prescription to this in agreement with the patient.
- It is unclear how long disruption in the supply chain for this medicine will continue. Please work together locally to communicate stock situations. Supply issues continue to be an increasing problem for all our pharmacy and practice teams. If you would like to know more see [link](#) to the latest news from Community Pharmacy England



# Medicines Supply Notification

## Fluoxetine

### **Action for pharmacy teams:**

- Where identified that your pharmacy is unable to obtain fluoxetine please contact the prescriber for any prescriptions you receive to request a new prescription in line with locally agreed communication processes e.g. utilising AccuRxWeb '@ message GP practice' functionality, providing the details of what you require the replacement prescription to say e.g. 10mg capsules TWO to be taken once daily
- Continue to report all medicines only available above the drug tariff price to Community Pharmacy England via the online reporting tool Without this information from contractors Community Pharmacy England cannot push for price concessions.



# B12 Guidance

- The [local Sheffield pathway](#) has been updated to reflect the advice from the [NICE NG239](#)
- Guidance applies to non-pregnant adults aged 16 and over.
  - Pregnant related cases should be referred to obstetrics

Main changes to pathway include:

- Change to the thresholds: to catch more subtle or early stage cases plus introduction of 'indeterminate' threshold
- Management: a more granular approach based on cause (e.g.diet, medication induced, neurological) and emphasises shared decision making
- Referral pathways expanded upon: same day emergency care referral for nitrous oxide toxicity, neurology consultation on Sub Acute combined degeneration of the cord (SACD) or an unclear diagnosis, emphasis on dietary advice for dietary causes
- Testing for Anti intrinsic factor antibodies (Anti-IFA): more specific on follow up and interpretation even when IFA is negative
- Considerations with special populations: pregnancy, black ethnicity, medications causing B12 deficiency
- More specific links to dietary advice.



Familiarise yourself with the [pathway](#)



# Denosumab – Biosimilar Update

- The update to the [Denosumab Shared Care Protocol](#) is now live on the [Medicines Optimisation Page](#)
- From 1 January 2026, denosumab 60 mg biosimilars have been 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 there is a significant cost saving with Stoboclo® compared with reference product (Prolia®)
- [SPS](#) and [PrescQIPP](#) have provided some resources including patient information leaflets and audit tools which practices may find useful.
- The update to the [SCP](#) to include Stoboclo® was approved at January IMOC and is now available on the [SY Medicines Optimisation Page](#)
- It is available to prescribe on the clinical systems (both EMIS and S1)
- Decision support software, formularies and the TLDL have been updated to reflect this change.
- **Referring to the [SCP](#) is it important patients are being given this injection in a timely manner i.e. every 6 months. Patients should also have a blood test prior administration of every injection to check calcium levels.**



- Search for patients on Prolia® / denosumab 60 mg.
- Review when next injection due for patients.
- Familiarise yourselves with the [SY Biosimilar Position Statement](#) and [SCP](#)
- Patients could be changed over to [Stoboclo](#)® at earliest opportunity/ document consent /ensure patient is up-to date with product prescribed / please ensure prescribed by BRAND.



## Improving Information Supplied with Gabapentinoids (Pregabalin/Gabapentin), Benzodiazepines and Z-Drugs

The MHRA has reviewed the warnings regarding addiction, dependence, withdrawal, and tolerance for gabapentin, pregabalin, benzodiazepines, and z-drugs. The findings (detailed in the Public Assessment Report) were that it was necessary to strengthen these warnings in the product information and on packaging to better inform healthcare professionals and patients of these known risks.

## Food Standards Agency - Nestlé recalls several SMA Infant Formula and Follow-On Formula as a precaution because of the possible presence of cereulide (toxin)

Multiple SMA infant and follow-on formula products listed in the alert are recalled due to potential presence of cereulide, a toxin. There are no confirmed illnesses reported, but precautionary recall initiated.

- Prescribers are requested if affected batches were prescribed, advise parents to destroy the product and provide an alternative formula and reinforce that all other batches and products are safe.
- The alert states all other Nestlé products and other batches of the same product that are not in the scope of this voluntary recall are safe to consume.

Only product in the alert prescribed in SY is SMA Alfamino (1,107 items prescribed in last 12 months). For patients currently on SMA Alfamino Local communications have gone out to each place recommending actions in line with local formulary.



# Medicines Safety

**NHS**

South Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board

## Class 3 Medicines Recall: Activase Pharmaceuticals Limited, Prednisolone 5mg Soluble Tablets

Recall for two batches of Prednisolone 5mg Soluble Tablets as a precautionary measure due to a limited number of reports of blister pockets becoming swollen over time.

- Pharmacies and dispensing GP practices to stop supplying the affected batches immediately, quarantine any remaining stock and return it to suppliers.
- Patients should continue taking medication from these batches unless the blister strips show signs of swelling, as the quality of the tablets is not affected. If a blister strip does show swelling, it should be returned to the pharmacy.





# Education and Training

**NHS**

South Yorkshire  
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**With Consultant Pharmacist Emma Bines**  
**A system approach to polypharmacy and**  
**medicines optimisation for older people**

Thursday 12th March 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

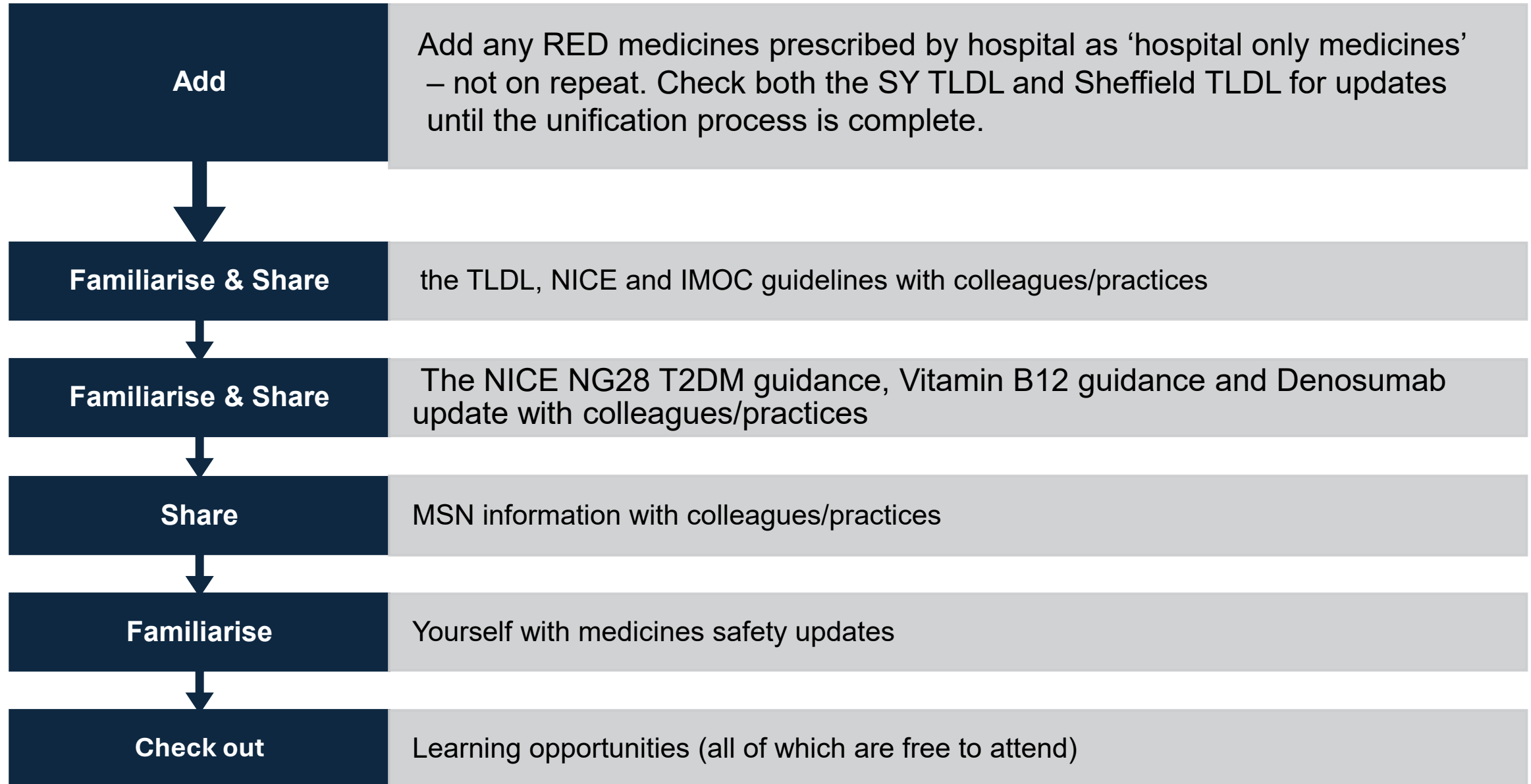


Talking Meds is available to listen to via your usual podcast system and a new episode will come out every fortnight, on the first and third Friday of each month.

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

**Future sessions to be confirmed due to ICB  
Organisational change and reduction of MO team  
members**

**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](mailto:syicb-sheffield.areaprescribinggroupsheffield@nhs.net)