

SPS Spotlight Monthly Digest

October 2024

Resources to support healthcare professionals working in all areas of the health system

*** Please share with the wider team ***

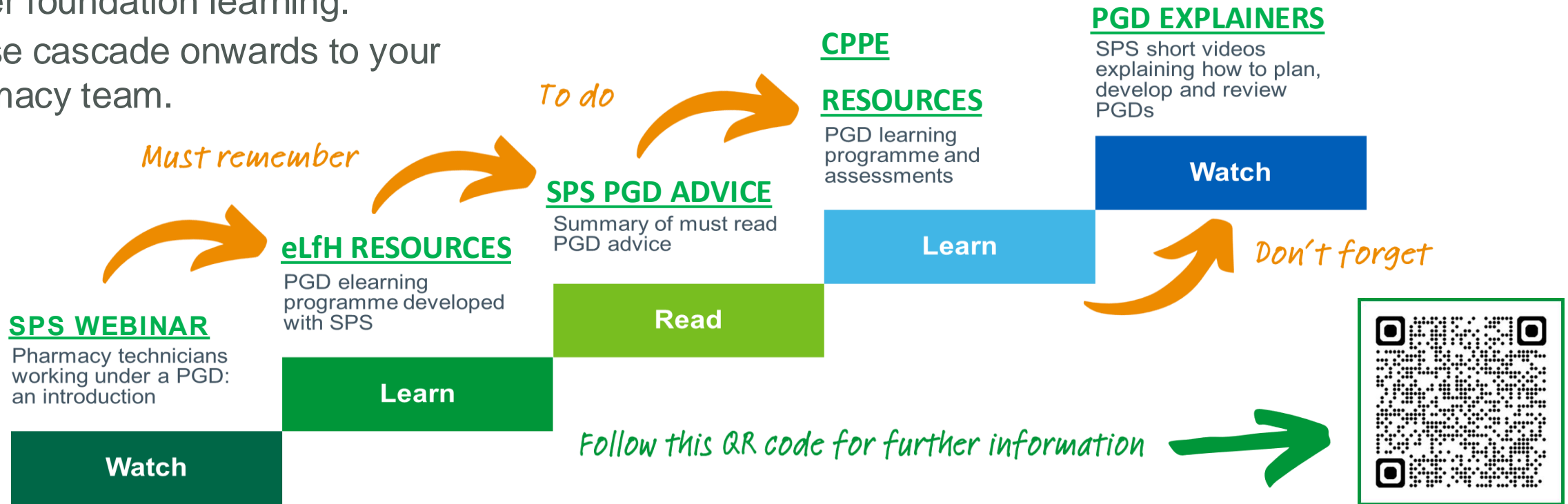
The first stop for professional medicines advice

October 2024

HOT TOPIC: Pharmacy Technicians and Patient Group Directions: where do we start?

This SPS infographic shows where to start by providing useful signposting links to resources and further foundation learning.

Please cascade onwards to your pharmacy team.



ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Managing medicines for people with sulfonamide

allergy: Points to consider when prescribing and supplying medicines to people with sulfonamide allergy.

Safe management of therapeutic drug monitoring:

Organisations must ensure safe management systems are in place to support the management of drugs requiring therapeutic drug monitoring.

Managing the risk of confusion between injectable

penicillin salts: Minimising the risk of confusion between injectable benzylpenicillin salt formulations may prevent harms.

ADVICE & GUIDANCE:

Understanding when a check adds value to

medication processes: Understanding what a check is, the principles of an effective check and factors to consider if introducing an independent second check to a medication process.

Quality assurance for aseptic services videos: A series of short videos about pharmaceutical quality systems in aseptic services

Medication Safety Update October 2024: A resource collating the latest medication safety communications and publications to inform, support and inspire medication safety improvements.

NEW PODCASTS:

Pharmacy First podcast series:

Pharmacy colleagues and expert clinicians talk about issues surrounding the new service in community pharmacy and try to debunk some of the clinical myths. Each episode focuses on one of the clinical conditions, with an additional episode dedicated to paediatrics.

The first five episodes have been published this month; the remaining three will follow later in the year.

Available now:

Sinusitis

Sore throat

Uncomplicated
urinary tract
infection

Otitis media

Children

Safer use of time critical medicines

Have you undertaken any work on the safer use of
time critical medicines?

Whether big or small, successful or experiencing
challenges - **we want to hear from you!**

Contact us at
lnwh-tr.sps-mso@nhs.net
to share your work



WEBINARS :

25th November
13:00 – 14:00

Dealing with OOS
Microbiology Results in
Pharmacy Aseptic Units
PART TWO

[REGISTER HERE](#)

3rd December
13:00 – 16:00

Improving Health
Outcomes in Health and
Justice

[REGISTER HERE](#)

PAST EVENTS

Take a look at our
previous events

[LISTEN BACK](#)

EVENTS:

SPS is going to Clinical Pharmacy Congress North 2024 SPS will have a stand at Clinical Pharmacy Congress North on the 1-2 November 2024 at Manchester Central. Our SPS colleagues will be presenting Biosimilars – Implementation support from SPS and Pharmacy Technician Professional Practice – enabling pharmacy reforms.

SPS at the Procurement and Distribution Interest Group Autumn

Symposium SPS will be participating at the Procurement and Distribution Interest Group Autumn Symposium on the 20 November 2024 at Birmingham Conference and Events Centre.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY DHSC

Shortage of Molybdenum-99/Technetium-99m generators: There are limited supplies of Molybdenum-99 used to manufacture Technetium-99m generators until mid November 2024. A National Patient Safety Alert has been issued, available on the Central Alerting System: [CAS-ViewAlert](#). Further information can be found via [Managing the shortage of Molybdenum-99 / Technetium-99m generators](#)

ADHD medicines: Further support and information can be found via: [Prescribing available medicines to treat ADHD](#).

GLP-1 inhibitors: An updated MSN has been issued with details on availability of each product. Further information can be found via [Prescribing available GLP-1 receptor agonists](#)

Hydroxocobalamin (Cyanokit): Stock issues are expected until May 2025. Unlicensed sodium thiosulfate (an alternative antidote for cyanide poisoning) is available and can support an increased demand, where appropriate, available from Mawdsleys or Smartway. Unlicensed imports of Cyanokit are being sourced. Refer to the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for further information (website registration required).

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY DHSC

Pancreatic Enzyme replacement therapy: An MSN has been published around the availability of these medicines. There are supply constraints on Creon and Nutrizym. A NatPSA has been issued. Please make sure to regularly check the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) for the latest updates. A public facing page, [Prescribing and ordering available pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies](#) and [mini-tool](#) have been developed on the SPS website.

Viatrix UK has initiated a free Creon® customer service line dedicated to patients and healthcare professional affected by Creon® supply constraint. The purpose of the service is to provide the most up to date information on the supply of Creon®. The service will aim to provide information on the nearest pharmacies which have recently received supply. The Creon® customer service line can be reached via 0800 8086410. The service will be active from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00.

SUPPLY ISSUES MANAGED BY RPPS

Pegasys Injection: Supply will be constrained until June 2025. An MSN has been issued. Allocations of remaining stock have been issued to Trusts. These are fixed for the period of the supply disruption. Imports can be sourced to support supply. An [urgent interim commissioning policy](#) is available.

Calcium Folate Injection: There are ongoing supply issues across all strengths and suppliers. An MSN has been issued. Imports will be needed to support in the interim and Trusts will need to order these in sufficient quantities bearing in mind lead times.

Albumin: There are supply constraints of both strengths of albumin. Trusts are on monthly allocations, so please review where this is used and use alternatives if possible. A NatPSA has been issued

Tyenne (tocilizumab): Supply from FK is constrained for the rest of the year. Updated information on SC supply has been issued. Delivery schedules will now revert to normal and further switching may become possible in Q1 2025. The supply position for IV is being reviewed regularly and further updates will be provided if the supply position changes.

IV fluids: The supply issues with IV fluids are continuing. MPSC and SPS Procurement are meeting regularly with suppliers to manage supplies. Please speak to your regional procurement specialists if you have any questions.

Access to the SPS Medicines Advice Service

A single, national telephone number and email for the SPS Medicines Advice Service for primary care-based healthcare professionals, has now been launched.

Email: askspns.nhs@sps.direct

Phone: 0300 770 8564

KEEP UP TO DATE

Bookmark our website <https://www.sps.nhs.uk>

Register [here](#) on our website and 'opt in' to receive the **weekly SPS bulletin**.

Follow us on **X** @NHS_SPS

You can now also follow us on **LinkedIn** - search NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service or click the link and make sure you connect

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/specialist-pharmacy-service/>

Using our advice

You remain professionally responsible and accountable for your own actions when using our advice and guidance.