



- **Register with the MHRA for Safety Alerts**

Since 1st October, the MHRA has been sending safety alerts directly to practices from its central alerting system (CAS), which replaces local email alerting arrangements. CAS will be one of the main channels used to communicate information during EU exit. All practices should register for alerts [link](#)

- **Potential for dosing errors with Paracetamol 1 gram soluble tablets**

Please be aware that the default directions for Paracetamol 1 gram soluble tablets on SystmOne are 1-2 qds prn. This could potentially lead to a patient taking 8 grams of paracetamol in a 24 hour period, double the maximum dose for paracetamol. There has already been a patient incident which fortunately did not lead to patient harm. The licensed dose for Paracetamol 1 gram soluble tablets is **ONE** tablet every four to six hours up to a maximum of **THREE** tablets in 24 hours. It is thought the maximum licensed dose of THREE (rather than FOUR) tablets in 24 hours is related to the high sodium content of this effervescent product. Please review all patients on paracetamol 1 gram soluble tablets and make sure dosing is appropriate. This error has been reported to TPP.

- **Prescribing and dispensing of Semaglutide pens**

Please be aware when prescribing or dispensing Semaglutide (GLP1 agonist for treatment of Type 2 diabetes) that each pen contains 4 doses, which is ONE month's supply. There have been a significant number of incidents where 4 pens (4 months) supply have been unintentionally prescribed/dispensed in a single prescription. If the dose is increased, a higher dose pen should be prescribed rather than doubling up the number of pens.

- **Sleep materials from Sleep Right (Scope)**

Sleep Right (formerly Sleep Solutions) has made their patient leaflets available for GPs. These are available on Primary Care Portal and can be printed off when advising parents and/or children about sleep problems.

- **New British Association for the Study of Headache (BASH) guidelines for headache management**

BASH has issued new guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of headache in adults. [Link](#) NICE guidance on headaches in over 12 is also available. [link](#)

- **NICE Bites Hypertension**

NICE bites has produced a prescribing bulletin which summarises key recommendations from recent NICE guidance on hypertension. [link to NICE guidance](#), [link to NICE Bites Summary](#)

- **NICE guidance on Cannabis-based medicinal products**

NICE has produced guidance covering the prescribing of cannabis-based medicinal products for people with intractable nausea and vomiting, chronic pain, spasticity and severe treatment-resistant epilepsy [link](#)

- **Opicapone 50mg capsules: supply disruption alert**

The Department of Health and Social Care has advised that opicapone 50mg capsules are likely to be out of stock until mid-January 2020 [link](#). GPs are advised to identify all patients currently prescribed opicapone and make contact with the patient or patient's carer to determine if the stocks at home will last until mid-January 2020. If the patient has sufficient supplies then no further action is required. If the patient does not have sufficient supplies of opicapone, make early contact with secondary/tertiary care specialists for advice on management options or referral to specialist.