

HIGH RISK MEDICATION ALERT CARDS

Drug	Date of alert	Alert reference	Link to resources	Relevant Requirements (as per alert)	What should be issued to patients	Documentation issued by whom?	Where are they obtained from	Cost
Methotrexate	01/06/2006 (previously 29/7/2004)	NPSA no. 13	http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59800	Patients to be supplied with a pre-treatment information leaflets and a patient-held monitoring and dosage record, during treatment.	Methotrexate Treatment booklet which contains: * Oral methotrexate pre-treatment PIL * Patient-held blood monitoring and dosage record book	Initiating Prescriber Provision of booklet Completion responsibilities will be outlined within the shared-care guidance. Community Pharmacist To review booklet on dispensing and issue if patient does not have one already.	Primary Care Support England http://pcse.england.nhs.uk/03330142884	Free
Lithium	01/12/2009	NPSA/2009/PSA005	http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/alerts/?entryid45=65426	1. At the start of therapy and throughout their treatment patient to receive appropriate ongoing verbal and written information and a record book to track Lithium blood levels and relevant clinical tests. 2. Prescribers and Pharmacists to check that blood tests are monitored regularly and that it is safe to issue a repeat prescription and/or dispense the prescribed Lithium.	* Lithium record booklet * Lithium alert card * Lithium therapy patient information booklet	Initiating Prescriber (Consultant psychiatrist). Provision of record booklet, alert card and PIL. GP/Maintaining Prescriber Provision/completion of record booklet, alert card and PIL. Provision of repeat record booklet. Community Pharmacist Review booklets to ensure blood tests are monitored regularly and that it is safe to dispense the prescribed Lithium. Repeats of record book may also be supplied by Community Pharmacist. (Process as per Pharmacy (NPSA/NPA SOP).	Primary Care Support England http://pcse.england.nhs.uk/03330142884 Record booklet also available electronically at www.nrls.npsa.uk/resources	Free
Insulin	30/03/2011	NPSA/2011/PSA005	http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=130397	1. Adult* patients receive a patient information booklet and an Insulin Passport to help provide accurate identification of their current insulin products and provide essential information across healthcare sectors. 2. Healthcare professionals and patients are informed how the Insulin Passport and associated patient information can be used to improve safety. 3. When prescriptions of insulin are prescribed, dispensed or administered, healthcare professionals cross-reference available information to confirm the correct identity of insulin products. <i>* The passport and patient information booklet may be used by patients of any age but the alert does not include children because there is already a system for close monitoring for this age group. This was supported by the finding that only 3 per cent of the insulin-related safety incidents concerned patients under 19 years of age.</i>	* Insulin Passport * Patient information booklet	Initiating Prescriber Responsible for issuing patients with a patient information booklet and completed Insulin Passport. They are also responsible for issuing a replacement Insulin Passport when there is no space left for new information, it has been lost or it has become unreadable. Community Pharmacist Review Insulin passport and cross reference with available information to check that the correct insulin therapy is being dispensed.	Primary Care Support England http://pcse.england.nhs.uk/03330142884	Free
Anticoagulants (Warfarin)	28/03/2007	NPSA no. 18	http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59814	1. Ensure that patients prescribed anticoagulants receive appropriate verbal and written information at the start of therapy, at hospital discharge, on the first anticoagulant clinic appointment, and when necessary throughout the course of their treatment. 2. Promote safe practice with prescribers and pharmacists to check that patients' blood clotting (International Normalised Ratio, INR) is being monitored regularly and that the INR level is safe before issuing or dispensing repeat prescriptions for oral anticoagulants.	* Alert Card * Important Information for patients book and Record Booklets * Record Booklet (blood test results and dosage information)	Initiating Prescriber To provide information before the first dose of anticoagulant is administered, at hospital discharge, at the first anticoagulant clinic appointment, and when necessary throughout the course of treatment. Record in the patient's healthcare record that this information has been supplied. GP/Maintaining Prescriber To consult most recent INR result before prescribing. It is for the prescriber supplying the prescription to ensure that it is safe to do so. Community Pharmacist To review record booklet prior to dispensing to ensure INR is regularly monitored and it is safe to dispense Warfarin.	Primary Care Support England http://pcse.england.nhs.uk/03330142884	Free
Sodium Valproate	21/01/2015	MHRA - no reference	https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/medicines-related-to-valproate-risk-of-abnormal-pregnancy-outcomes	Ensure all female patients are informed of and understand: (i) risks associated with valproate during pregnancy (ii) need to use effective contraception (iii) need for regular review of treatment (iv) need to rapidly consult if she is planning a pregnancy or becomes pregnant. Educational material is available to inform healthcare professionals and patients about these risks.	Toolkit produced by MHRA includes : * Checklist for prescribers * Patient card * Brochure for healthcare professional * Brochure for patients	Initiating Prescriber To complete checklist and provide patient guide Community Pharmacist Alert card to be issued unless patient already has one.	Available to download from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/toolkit-on-the-risks-of-valproate-medicines-in-female-patients Hard copies of PIL and alert cards are obtainable from Sanofi Medical Information: Tel: 0845 372 7101 or e-mail: UK-Medicalinformation@sanofi.com.	Free
Steroids	03/04/1998	HSC 1998/056	 dh_4011730.pdf	All patients prescribed systemic corticosteroids for greater than 3 weeks durations. For patients on treatment for less than 3 weeks, issue of a card is at the discretion of the doctor/pharmacists. It is not recommended that cards are issued to patients prescribed topical, inhaled or nasal corticosteroids unless considered necessary by the prescribing doctor; however the BNF does states they should be issued for patient on high-dose inhaled corticosteroids.	* Steroid treatment cards	Initiating Prescriber To issue a card and explain its purpose. Community Pharmacist To check that the patient has received a card and to issue one if they haven't and explain its purpose.	Primary care support England http://pcse.england.nhs.uk/03330142884	Free

Version	1.0
Developed by	Sapana Sheth, Pharmaceutical Adviser, HVCCG in collaboration with Charlotte Earl, Senior Pharmaceutical Adviser, HVCCG.
Date ratified	January 2017 (Medicines Optimisation Clinical Leads Group)
Review date	January 2019

DRAFT v3