

From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
**Professor Cathy Harrison**



Department of  
**Health**

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## **FOR ACTION**

Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (*for onward transmission to relevant staff*)

Chief Executive, Business Services Organisation (*for onward transmission to relevant staff*)

Assistant Director of Integrated Care, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, SPPG (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*).

Head of General Medical Services, SPPG (*for onward distribution to GP Practices*)

GP Medical Advisers, Strategic Planning and Performance Group.

Date: 8 September 2023

Dear Colleagues,

## **SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOL– JEXT® 300MCG/ 0.3ML SOLUTION FOR INJECTION AUTO-INJECTOR PEN – EXPIRY DATE EXTENSION**

Serious shortage protocols (SSPs) under the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMRs) are an additional tool to manage and mitigate medicines shortages. An SSP enables community pharmacists to supply a specified medicine in accordance with a protocol rather than a prescription, without needing to seek authorisation from the prescriber, saving time for patients, pharmacists and prescribers. They are used in the case of a serious shortage, where a medicine would be likely to be out of stock for some time, and if, in the opinion of ministers, it would help manage the supply situation.

In light of continued supply concerns across the UK regarding the availability of Jext® 300mcg/ 0.3ml solution for injection auto-injector pens, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has today extended the expiry date of the existing SSP for this product (**SSP058**) until **Friday 20 October 2023**.

This SSP, authorised by the Secretary of State on behalf of the four UK nations, enables community pharmacists to supply patients one EpiPen® 300mcg/ 0.3ml solution for injection auto-injector pen for every Jext® 300mcg/ 0.3ml solution for injection auto-injector pen originally prescribed. **When making a supply under this**

**SSP, ensure the patient/ carer/ guardian understands how to administer an EpiPen® 300mcg/ 0.3ml solution for injection auto-injector pen.**

Pharmacists should refer to the latest version of this SSP which is available on the Business Services Organisation (BSO) dedicated page on its website:

[www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm](http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3063.htm)

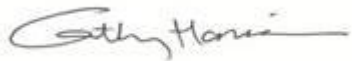
Should the quantity on the prescription be unclear, the pharmacist should consult with the patient and use their professional skill and judgement to make an appropriate supply under this SSP. Pharmacists should refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) and Patient Information Leaflets (PIL) to inform these decisions. The patient/carer will also need to agree to supply under the SSP.

If a patient/carer declines to receive medicine under this SSP or the patient is considered unsuitable for inclusion, ensure the patient is referred back to their prescriber promptly.

### **Action Required**

All relevant staff should be made aware of the extended expiry date of this SSP. I would ask the SPPG to bring this information to the attention of GP Practices and Community Pharmacists directly.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Cathy Harrison  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**