

## Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance (15)

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Date: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**NICE Rapid evidence summaries- Released 21st May 2020:**

**NICE: COVID-19 rapid evidence summary: angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) in people with or at risk of COVID-19** See [link](#)

Despite biological plausibility for the role of ACEIs and ARBs in both increasing and decreasing the risk of COVID-19 and its complications, this latest NICE evidence review has not found any observational or experimental data to support these hypotheses. However, the risks of stopping treatment with an ACEI or an ARB, such as worsening heart failure or hypertension, are well understood. The advice therefore remains: people currently taking these medicines should continue to do so.

**NICE: COVID-19 rapid evidence summary: Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for people with or at risk of COVID-19** See [link](#)

No evidence was found to suggest that people taking NSAIDs for a long-term condition should be advised to stop treatment in the context of COVID-19. Stopping or switching NSAID treatment could have a negative impact on some people. The lowest effective dose of an NSAID should be used for the shortest period of time required to control symptoms and the need for long-term treatment should be reviewed periodically.

### Changes to NICE COVID-19 guidelines

**NICE: COVID-19 rapid guidelines: children and young people who are immunocompromised ([NG174](#))**

Information has been added regarding reviewing immunosuppressant medicines. These should be reviewed if a child or young person may have COVID-19 or there are medical concerns.

**NICE: COVID-19 rapid guidelines: rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders ([NG167](#)).**

Recommendations have been amended to highlight that decision on stopping some medicines needs to take account of the advice in NG174.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): New dedicated Yellow Card reporting site for medicines and medical devices** See [Link](#)

Reporting to the new site will enable the MHRA to rapidly identify new and emerging side effects and medical device incidents in COVID-19 treatment, including side effects for medicines taken by patients to manage long-term or pre-existing conditions.

**To maintain the supply chain do NOT over order any medicines**

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Use the [new dedicated COVID-19 Yellow Card reporting site](#) to report:

- all suspected side effects associated with any medicine used in patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, including medicines to manage long-term or pre-existing conditions, and unlicensed medicines or medicines used off-label
- medical devices incidents related to COVID-19

Reporting of incidents in clinical trials should follow the trial protocol

For non-COVID related side effects from medicines please continue to report through the standard [Yellow Card website](#), which can also be used for defective or falsified medicines and medical devices (including fake COVID-19 testing kits)

### **Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme: temporary advice for management during coronavirus (COVID-19)** See [Link](#)

Guidance has been published to support initiation of valproate in female patients and for annual review and pregnancy testing during the coronavirus pandemic.

### **Supply Disruption Alert: Zyban® (bupropion hydrochloride) 150mg prolonged release tablets** See [Link](#)

Zyban® (bupropion hydrochloride) 150mg prolonged release tablets will be out of stock from week commencing 15th June 2020 until the end of November 2020. This alert contains advice on the management of affected patients.

### **Danazol 100mg and 200mg capsules discontinued.** See [Link](#)

Danzol 100mg and 200mg capsules have been discontinued in the UK and remaining supplies of both strengths are now exhausted. The management of affected patients is detailed in the link.

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