

**Steroid Emergency Card to Support Early Recognition and Treatment of Adrenal Crisis in Adults**

[**Steroid Emergency Cards – National Patient Safety Alert:**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-patient-safety-alert-steroid-emergency-card-to-support-early-recognition-and-treatment-of-adrenal-crisis-in-adults/) in August 2020 the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) issued an alert and published national guidance promoting a new patient-held Steroid Emergency Card to support the early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults.

The Steroid Emergency Card is NOT a replacement for the blue Steroid Treatment Card.

Practices are required to review their procedures and may need to issue blue Steroid Treatment Cards as well as red Steroid Emergency Cards.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NPSA-Emergency-Steroid-Card-FINAL-2.3.pdf>

Currently the clinical systems do not appear to have separate specific read codes for the two different cards so when adding read code(s) to the patient record, please add free text to indicate which of the card(s) have been issued to the patient. Currently available are:

Steroid treatment card issued (XaVxk  / 711121000000102)

STC1 Steroid treatment card (8B317 / 112911000000105)

Please consider liaising with your local community pharmacy on how you can work together to best support implementation of this important safety alert such as ensuring they have ordered cards and be prepared to hand out to appropriate patients, and feeding back to the practice for those patients they have issued cards to.

If you have examples or ideas of how you have / can successfully progress the implementation that you are happy to share please email ddccg.meds.man@nhs.net.

Dependant on capacity and previously identified PCN priorities, your CCG medicines management team may be available to support this work but please liaise with your practice team to agree a plan.

**Implementation Resources**

A range of guidance and information has been provided below to support practices with implementing the recommendations above. These includes links to the current guidance, clinical system searches to support identification of affected patients, patient information letter templates and links to obtain both the Blue Steroid Treatment Card and the new Steroid Emergency Card.

***Current Guidance***

**Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS)** have finalised their guidance which can be found here and details specific dugs and doses where patients may be at risk. Local dermatologists advocate following the SPS guidance for topical steroids.

<https://www.endocrinology.org/media/4030/spssfe_supporting_sec_-final_hls-19022021-2-1.pdf>

**PrescQIPP** have updated their Hot Topic guide. PrescQIPP have liaised with SPS during the production of their resources, however there are a few differences, mainly due to the lack of exact evidence in some areas.



***Clinical System Searches***

There are different searches and available but due to the lack of exact evidence in some areas it is acknowledged that any one suite of searches may not accurately capture all patients potentially at risk, and such there is no one suite of searches that we specifically recommend. Other search limitations include they will not identify patients in more than one search, the dose for patients using the MART regime and patients who may be over-ordering. Practices may wish to run multiple searches minimise chances of missing patients.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Clinical System Searches (in no particular order)** | **Detail** | **Comments** |
| CCG MOD Team  S1 searches can be found in the CCG MOD Team folder, suite of searches titled ‘Steroid Warning Card (14)’ | |  | | --- | | 1. Oral steroids on repeat NOT prednisolone USE OUTPUT | | 2. Pred >3 issues in 6/12 USE OUTPUT | | 3. High Dose ICS poss > 1000mcg BDP USE OUTPUT | | 4. Nasal steroids potentially > 1000mcg USE OUTPUT | | 4a. All Nasal steroids | | 5. Injectable steroids on repeat | | 5a. All Injectable steroids in last 12/12 | | 6. Rectal steroids | | 7. Potent Topical Steroids  (PQ 60-120g per month SPS >200g per week) USE OUTPUT | | 8. Very Potent Topical Steroids  (PQ 30-60g per month SPS >200g per week) USE OUTPUT | | 9. Lower Dose ICS USE OUTPUT | | 9a. Lower dose ICS plus prednisolone (search 2), no SEC | | 9b. Lower dose ICS plus nasal steroids, no SEC | | 9c. Lower dose ICS plus injection in last 12/12, no SEC | | 9d. Lower dose ICS plus topical (pot/very pot), no SEC | | 9e. High Dose ICS plus any other steroid, no SEC | | The searches are numbered 1 -9 in priority order for review.  For those searches detailed as ‘USE OUTPUT’ you can view the prescribed dose/quantity issued without the need to open individual patient records. Your CCG pharmacist or technician can demonstrate how to use the outputs if needed. |
| CCG MOD Team  EMIS searches are based on the Ardens searches. Export the auto reports into Excel to filter |  | These searches will need to imported on an individual practice basis |
| Ardens  Ardens have set up a search titled ‘Known adrenal insufficiency on corticosteroids – consider need for steroid card’ which can be found under Alerts/Other, CAS  Pop-up alert and template also available |  | It appears the Ardens searches will only pick up high dose inhaled steroids where the read code ‘Using inhaled steroids – high dose’ (663g2) has been used |
| PrescQIPP – updated May 14th 2021  Protocols |  | Copy and save the searches before importing into the clinical system.  The protocols will need to be unzipped (extract data) before importing into the clinical system.  There is a guide to content and implementation of protocols in the zipped folder. |

***Other resources***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PrescQIPP Hot Topics  Updated Apr-21 |  |  |
| Patient letter with Steroid Emergency Card |  | Example letter which can be adapted. It includes a Steroid Emergency Card for patients to cut out and keep. |
| Steroid Alert Card guidance | Slides from SPS    SPS Webinar (users will need to sign in)  <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/mus-webinar-steroid-emergency-card-recording/> |  |
| Both the Steroid Treatment Card and the Emergency Steroid Card can be ordered from the usual suppliers | 1. NHS Forms at NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA)   <http://www.nhsforms.co.uk/>   1. Primary Care Support England [https://secure.pcse.england.nhs.uk/\_forms/pc sssignin.aspx](https://secure.pcse.england.nhs.uk/_forms/pc%20sssignin.aspx) |  |