

# Medication Shortages & BPNG Committee Updates



**Priya Mistry**, Chair of BPNG,  
Consultant Pharmacist

The last few months have seen nutrition teams all over the UK rationalising prescribing of Pabrinex® due to stock shortages. It was announced in April 2024 that Pabrinex® Intravenous (IV) injection would be out of stock from August 2024 until at least September 2025. Pabrinex® Intramuscular (IM) injection is being discontinued, with stock exhaustion expected from December 2024. As there are no other licensed parenteral alternatives to Pabrinex® IV and IM injections, a clinical working group was set up to explore therapeutic options, to which the BPNG contributed. They produced clinical guidance to support trusts and clinicians on the priorities for the use of Pabrinex during the period of limited supply. They have been evaluating imported parenteral thiamine preparations to use once Pabrinex® stock has been exhausted.

The guidance advised rationalising all prescribing and reserve stock for only those individuals requiring Pabrinex® for treatment of life-threatening conditions, namely Wernicke's encephalopathy/Korsakoff psychosis. In this situation the IV preparation must be used to ensure diffusion across the blood brain barrier. Patients at risk of refeeding syndrome are at a higher risk of Wernicke's encephalopathy/Korsakoff psychosis due to thiamine depletion. The IV was advised to be used only for refeeding, where the oral or enteral route is not available or for those at very high risk of refeeding syndrome, and should be used at the lowest clinically suitable dose/course length. A link to the guidance is available at: [www.bpng.co.uk/resources/pabrinex-shortage-guidelines](http://www.bpng.co.uk/resources/pabrinex-shortage-guidelines). We are also planning a webinar on this topic, so please check our events page for details on how to register: [www.bpng.co.uk/events](http://www.bpng.co.uk/events).

## Annual General Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

The BPNG AGM is planned for this year over a virtual platform. All our Executive Committee positions are up for nomination. We encourage members to join and take part in the voting of our officers. Details of all nominees and AGM registration can be found on our website. We will be introducing our new committee in the next issue.



## Clinical Pharmacy Congress, London, May 2024

The BPNG team were pleased to exhibit at the Clinical Pharmacy Congress. Thank you to all the pharmacists who visited us and showed interest in our resources. We also contributed two sessions and co-ordinated two excellent speakers, Melody Chan, Paediatric Parenteral Nutrition and Neonatal Medicine Pharmacist from University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, and Lucy Hutchinson, Lead Nutrition Pharmacist (Adults) from University Hospital Bristol and Weston. Melody gave an introduction to paediatric parenteral nutrition, covering available licensed regimens, and complications and common risks. Lucy gave an insightful presentation of providing parenteral nutrition out of hours and dealing with problems such as missing bags or low/high electrolytes. Many thanks to both our speakers for presenting on behalf of the BPNG.

The BPNG team continue to promote the role of the pharmacist in nutrition support. We are keen to support pharmacists and other healthcare professionals in advanced roles. Membership to our group provides free access to member resources and free BAPEN membership. Please do join our group to access these benefits. Membership details are available at: [www.bpng.co.uk/](http://www.bpng.co.uk/) or contact us via: [www.bpng.co.uk/contact](http://www.bpng.co.uk/contact) if you have any questions.

For further information on the BPNG visit: [www.bpng.co.uk](http://www.bpng.co.uk)