

## Prescribing of Oral Mesalazine preparations

Mesalazine is a 5-acetylsalicylic acid (5-ASA) derivative used in both acute and chronic management of inflammatory bowel disease. There are numerous oral preparations available and it is advisable that mesalazine should always be prescribed by brand due to the differing release characteristics of the available preparations. Below is a quick guide to prescribing oral mesalazine within Barnsley:

**First line:** Octasa<sup>®</sup> MR tablets (800mg TDS = £47.50; 1200mg TDS = £67.00)

- Octasa<sup>®</sup> MR is the preferred first line brand of mesalazine within Barnsley

**Second line:** Salofalk<sup>®</sup> Granules (1.5g OD = £24.43; 3g OD = £48.85)

- Salofalk is a once a day granule formulation which is sometimes easier for patients who struggle with taking large tablets and may also be better tolerated than those 5-ASAs in tablet formulation.
- Drug release occurs at the terminal ileum, rather than more proximally (such as stomach or small bowel which can occur in some of the other 5-ASAs) and there is some evidence to show that is useful for those with distal disease, especially in those who do not want topical therapy.

**Third line** or for patients already stabilised on these treatments:

Pentasa<sup>®</sup> Tablets (1g BD = £36.89; 2g BD = £73.78)

Pentasa<sup>®</sup> Sachets (1g BD = 36.89; 2g BD = £73.78; 4g OD = £73.78)

- Pentasa preparations use a microgranule formulation which allows continuous release from duodenum through to the rectum.

Mezavant XL<sup>®</sup> tablets (2.4g OD = £42.95; 4.8g OD = £85.90)

Asacol MR tablets (800mg TDS = £58.82; 1200mg TDS = £88.23)

Granule formulations can be used in patients with swallowing difficulties. In patients with feeding tubes, however, please bear in mind that the granules are quite large in size so are only appropriate for use via large bore tubes.