

Medicines Management Newsletter

January 2020

Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of the Medicines Management Newsletter which is distributed to all practices and pharmacies in the Barnsley area.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed of the latest medicine updates, drug alerts/recalls and the work currently being completed in GP Practices by the Medicines Management Team. We hope that you find it interesting and informative.

Medicines Optimisation Scheme (MOS) 2019-20

There are a number of work areas which will require clinical input from the practices before the 28th February deadline to ensure that all patients are reviewed:

- Triptan prescribing: Patients usage, efficacy and choice of product to be reviewed in line with local and national guidance. Consider prophylactic treatment where appropriate,
- High Dose Opioid Prescribing: Medication reviews to be completed on patients prescribed more than 120mg/day of oral morphine or equivalent
- Diltiazem: Review patients prescribed diltiazem generically, a once daily preparation twice daily or a twice daily preparation once a day and offer a change to a branded product at a licensed dose.

Practices are encouraged to continue to engage with the Medicines Management Team to ensure all areas are completed.

If you have any questions regarding the scheme please email barnsleyccg.mosreporting@nhs.net

Changes to the ordering of Catheters, Dressings and Medi Derma® Wound Care Products

Dressings

It has been agreed with the District Nurses and Tissue Viability that order forms for dressings will be live (in use) from 1st February 2020 and initially will be paper copies filled out by the District Nurses and handed in to the prescription clerks/surgeries. This ensures that the correct formulary products are ordered, limits to a two week supply to help reduce any waste and ensures the patient receives the right dressings as this can change frequently.

Medi Derma Wound Care Products

There are also order forms to use for the Medi Derma products. The Medi Derma S® can be ordered by all clinical staff however the Medi Derma Pro range is now Protocol 9 and requires Tissue Viability Nurse (TVN) authorisation.

Any dressing that is ordered on the Protocol 9 form **MUST** clearly state that it has been given on TVN authorisation.

If you have any queries or anything that has been ordered which is not listed on the forms please contact Liz Lock, work mobile **07584 144103** or by email elizabeth.lock3@nhs.net (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

Catheters

The catheter supplies district nurses ordering tool has now been approved by all involved and will be live (in use) from 1st February 2020. Initially this will be a paper copy and includes information on formulary items and guidance on appropriate amounts to order.

If you have any queries or anything that has been ordered which is not listed on the forms please contact Lindsay Reynolds, work mobile **07824 607861** or by email lindsay.reynolds@nhs.net (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday afternoon).

Currently, paper copies are in use of all 3 forms for the short term but moving forward, the district nurses will be emailing the forms across to the practices to the email addresses which have been provided. The forms will shortly be made available on the BEST website.

APC Reporting – Reminder to report interface issues

We have seen a drop in the number of APC reports being submitted from Primary Care. Please could we remind you all to submit an APC report for interface issues that arise, however minor they seem. The data obtained from APC reporting is used to highlight recurring themes in order to improve processes across the interface.

The APC reporting form and process can be found on the [Barnsley CCG](#) website.

Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Prescribing Guidelines

The NEW Ranitidine Liquid Shortage: Barnsley Guidance on alternatives to Ranitidine Liquid for Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease in Babies and Children has been produced to support prescribers in selecting suitable alternatives to ranitidine liquid for the treatment of Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease in Babies and Children, due to the shortage of ranitidine liquid:

<http://barnsleybest.nhs.sitekit.net/prescribing-guidelines/gi-ranitidine-liquid/101352>

The Department of Health and Social Care has subsequently published an updated Supply Disruption Alert for ranitidine on the 20th December: [SDA-2019-005U2.pdf](#)

Key points from the latest Supply Disruption Alert:

- **Ranitidine tablets, effervescent tablets and oral solution will continue to be unavailable** with no date for resupply until further notice. Ranitidine injection is back in stock.
- There are short term supply issues affecting alternative H2-receptor antagonists.
- No new patients should be initiated on treatment with oral ranitidine.
- All patients should be reviewed as repeat prescriptions are requested and if ongoing treatment is required, be switched to clinical alternatives in line with the guidance.
- Clinical advice on alternatives to oral ranitidine in children has been produced by UK Medicines Information (table 2 in the alert). This guidance is in addition to previous advice issued for the management of adults (table 1 in the alert).

NEW **Trimipramine and Dosulepin Area Prescribing Committee Position Statements** have been developed following the inclusion of trimipramine and dosulepin in the NHS England guidance 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care':

<http://barnsleybest.nhs.sitekit.net/prescribing-guidelines/cns-trimipramine/101353>

<http://barnsleybest.nhs.sitekit.net/prescribing-guidelines/cns-dosulepin/101354>

Shared Care Guidelines

The NEW **Ganciclovir 0.15% Eye Gel Amber-G Guideline** has been developed following the classification of Ganciclovir 0.15% eye gel as Amber-G by the Committee:

<http://barnsleybest.nhs.sitekit.net/clinical-support/prescribing-guidelines/ganciclovir-015-eye-gel/101356>

The Committee previously agreed to adopt the **Sheffield Shared Care Guideline for Denosumab 60mg/mL injection (Prolia®)**. The Shared Care Guideline has recently been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/prescribing-guidelines/denosumab/16227>

The **Tizanidine Amber-G Guideline has been discontinued by the Committee** as there are currently no specialists in Barnsley initiating patients on tizanidine. Tizanidine has been removed from the Barnsley Formulary (non-formulary provisional amber-G).

Formulary Changes (Drugs with a provisional classification are not currently on the Barnsley Formulary)

- **Mesalazine 1,600 mg modified release tablets** have been assigned a formulary green classification.
- **Colesevelam** has been assigned a formulary amber-G (previously non-formulary provisional amber-G) classification for bile salt malabsorption (unlicensed indication), second line, when patients cannot tolerate colestyramine. Amber-G guidance is currently in development.
- **Tadalafil 2.5mg and 5mg once daily tablets** have been assigned a formulary red classification for new patients.
- **Cavilon® and Sorbaderm® barrier creams** have been assigned a non-formulary provisional green classification (previously formulary green). Medi Derma-S® and Medi Derma-Pro® are the barrier preparations of choice for protecting skin from the damage associated with incontinence. Note that Medi Derma-Pro® ointment is ONLY for severe skin damage from incontinence and it should be used with Medi Derma-Pro® Foam and Spray incontinence cleanser. See the Barnsley Formulary for further information.
- **Trimipramine** has been assigned a non-formulary grey classification (previously formulary grey).

U&E requests for patients taking phenindione

We have been informed by BHNFT colleagues that patients who are on **phenindione treatment may have falsely low creatinine results**. This may lead to an underestimation of kidney disease and/or the misinterpretation of an increased eGFR. This is due to phenindione interference in the creatinine assay used in the laboratory.

Please specify on any U&E requests if the patient is taking phenindione in order to arrange creatinine analysis using an alternative method. Should you require any further clarification, please contact Consultant Clinical Scientists Cat Dibden (Catherine.dibden@nhs.net ext 2772) or Dr Iain Woodrow (iain.woodrow@nhs.net ext 5749).

MHRA Safety Updates

The latest MHRA safety update is available to view online.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/852497/Dec-2019-PDF.pdf.pdf

Key issues affecting Primary Care are highlighted below - For the full details please view the guidance using the link above.

Domperidone for nausea and vomiting: lack of efficacy in children; reminder of contraindications in adults and adolescents

Domperidone is no longer licensed for use in children younger than 12 or those weighing less than 35 kg.

Results from a placebo-controlled study in children younger than 12 years with acute gastroenteritis did not show any difference in efficacy at relieving nausea and vomiting compared with placebo.

Eclipse Live is currently showing 8 patients aged less than 12 years old currently prescribed Domperidone. There are 0 patients showing as less than 35kg and 12 years of age or over.

Use of blood glucose meters in practice

For patients requiring ad-hoc blood glucose levels recording in practice, practices are encouraged to use the most cost-effective blood glucose meters/strips which are included on the local [formulary](#). These are Accu-Chek Performa® and GlucoRx Q®/Nexus® and supplies of the meter/test strips/control solution are available to practices free of charge by contacting the companies using the following details:

Accu-Chek Performa® (Roche)

Derek Dooley, Diabetes Care Specialist: Mobile: 07885 226133 Email: derek.dooley@roche.com

GlucoRx Q® or Nexus®

Avril Smart, Regional Manager: Mobile: 07880 031033 Email: avril@glucorx.co.uk

The representatives are also able to provide supplies of the meters for patient use and training on how to use them to practice staff.

Out of Stock Medication Information

The Medicines Management Team investigates and shares information regarding out of stock medication between the team. Sharing this information in this way saves practice-based team members time and potentially prevents multiple staff chasing the same issue.

We recognise that this information may also be useful to GP Surgeries and we would like to share our information with staff members in individual surgeries.

If you would like to receive this spreadsheet please contact keeley.wilson1@nhs.net and/or christian.taylor@nhs.net with the best email address to send it to in your surgery.

If you have any queries regarding medication or require support in identifying patients affected by any of the issues discussed in this newsletter, please contact the Medicines Management Pharmacist and/or Technician working in your practice.

Alternatively contact the Medicines Management Team on 01226 433669 or 433798.

We would welcome any feedback you have to give on this newsletter, as well as suggestions for future articles. Please send ideas and comments in to Vicki Holmes, Senior Prescribing Support Technician on email address victoria.holmes3@nhs.net

Many Thanks