

Medicines Management Newsletter

January/February 2023

Welcome to the January/February edition of the Medicines Management Newsletter. This newsletter is distributed to all practices and pharmacies in the Barnsley area and 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.

Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

[Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and treatment](#) (from NICE Guidelines 136) [UPDATED]

This updated guideline, which is based on NICE [NG136](#), includes information on the diagnosis, monitoring and drug treatment of hypertension in adults. It includes blood pressure targets for different age groups, same-day specialist referral criteria, and information on cardiovascular risk assessment.

Amber-G Guideline Template [MINOR UPDATE]

The Committee agreed to update the definition of amber-G drugs within the amber-G guideline template with the additional wording in italics below. The updated template will be used when new guidelines are developed and when existing guidelines are next reviewed.

Amber with Guidance (Amber-G) = To be recommended or initiated by a specialist* with follow up prescribing and monitoring by primary care clinicians.

*Specialist is defined by the APC as a clinician who has undertaken an appropriate formal qualification or recognised training programme, *or who has the appropriate knowledge and competencies* within the described area of practice.

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

- **Estetrol + drospirenone (Drovelis®)** oral contraception, has been assigned a non-formulary provisional grey classification.
- **Lidocaine (Lidbree®) intrauterine gel**, topical anaesthesia for moderate acute pain during cervical and intrauterine procedures, has been assigned a non-formulary provisional grey classification.
- **Setmelanotide (Imcivree®)**, for treatment of obesity and the control of hunger associated with genetically confirmed loss-of-function biallelic pro-opiomelanocortin, including PCSK1, deficiency or biallelic leptin receptor deficiency, has been assigned a non-formulary provisional red classification.
- **Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)**, for treatment of adults with insufficiently controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus, has been assigned a non-formulary provisional grey classification.

Calcium and Vitamin D Formulary choices:

- **Calfovit D3® sachets for oral suspension**, has been removed from the formulary as it is discontinued.
- **Adcal-D3® Dissolve effervescent tablets** (Colecalciferol 400units/10micrograms, 1500mg calcium carbonate = 600mg elemental calcium), have been assigned a formulary green classification. It is the third line choice calcium and vitamin D preparation, for patients who are unable to take chewable tablets or tablets and require a soluble preparation. One tablet BD (preferably one tablet each morning and evening). Calcium and vitamin D, and vitamin D summary of formulary choices guidance will be updated in due course: [Ca plus VitD or VitD Formulary Choices.pdf \(barnsleyccg.nhs.uk\)](#)

MHRA Drug Safety Update

The November 2022 MHRA Drug Safety Update can be accessed at the following link:

[Drug Safety Update \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Issues relating to Primary Care:

Consultation with healthcare professionals: please complete our consultation to help influence how we communicate with you

The MHRA is reviewing its approach to engaging with healthcare professionals on the safety of medicines and medical devices. Through the consultation, you can provide your views and help inform the MHRA's new approach.

What healthcare professionals can do to get involved and influence how the MHRA engages with them:

- the MHRA are consulting a wide range of healthcare professionals with a view to transforming how they engage and work together on the common goal of greater patient safety – [access the consultation here](#)
- the MHRA want to ensure that healthcare professionals are receiving actionable information and guidance on safe use of medicines and medical devices that they can take into their working practice, providing timely advice to patients
- tell the MHRA how they can improve their engagement – your feedback will help the MHRA to develop a new approach, improving how safety information and reporting systems are communicated and used and maximising the MHRA's impact on patient safety

Antibiotics: Fidaxomicin and Linezolid

Fidaxomicin is included on the Barnsley formulary with an amber G classification and supporting guidance is available on the BEST website:-

[Fidaxomicin Amber G Guidance.](#)

The Area Prescribing Committee has agreed that primary care clinicians with the appropriate knowledge and competencies can initiate fidaxomicin in line with NICE guidance NG199 [Clostridioides difficile infection: antimicrobial prescribing \(nice.org.uk\)](#). Fidaxomicin can also be prescribed on the advice of the microbiologist.

The indications for fidaxomicin are also summarised in the NICE/PHE summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance which the APC has agreed to adopt:

[BNF hosts antimicrobial summary guidance on behalf of NICE and PHE - BNF Publications](#)

Fidaxomicin is licensed in the UK and is available via standard wholesalers, but it is not usually stocked in community pharmacies. If the medication is not immediately available, it can usually be ordered in for the next working day.

If a supply is required more urgently than the next working day, 1 box of 20 fidaxomicin 200mg tablets is held by one Barnsley pharmacy, refer to the ordering information section on page 3 of the Amber G guideline for further details.

Antibiotics: Fidaxomicin and Linezolid (continued)

Linezolid is included on the Barnsley formulary with a red classification. It should only be prescribed in primary care on the advice of a consultant microbiologist. Guidance on the use of linezolid in the treatment of pneumonia and severe skin and soft tissue infections is available on the BEST website ([link](#)).

Linezolid is licensed in the UK and is available via standard wholesalers, but it is not usually stocked in community pharmacies. If the medication is not immediately available, it can usually be ordered in for the next working day. If a supply is required more urgently than the next working day, 1 box of 10 linezolid 600mg tablets is held by the two pharmacies on the B list of the palliative care stocklist scheme. Further information is available on the BEST website:

[Link to participating pharmacies](#)

[Link to drug list](#)

Support to Community Pharmacies

As part of the continued effort to support community pharmacies, we encourage pharmacies to contact us with any concerns or issues they may be facing, and we will endeavour to help wherever we can.

Pharmacies are advised to flag any significant issues or concerns as soon as possible.

Discharge Medication Service

If a pharmacy needs to query any discrepancies as part of the Discharge Medication Service, could you please cc the respective clinical pharmacist within the GP practice.

Disruptions to communication methods (phone lines/email)

Should any community pharmacies experience disruption to their lines of communication can they please bring these to our attention, wherever possible.

The team can be contacted by email:

Shoib Ashfaq, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – s.ashfaq@nhs.net

Mir Khan, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – mir.khan1@nhs.net

Shauna Kemp, Primary Care Network Technician – shauna.kemp@nhs.net

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 any suggestions for future articles.

Please send ideas and comments to Jody Musgrave, Sarah Bedford or Claire Taylor via email addresses jody.musgrave@nhs.net sarah.bedford3@nhs.net or claire.taylor18@nhs.net

Many Thanks