

Medicines Management Newsletter

December 2021

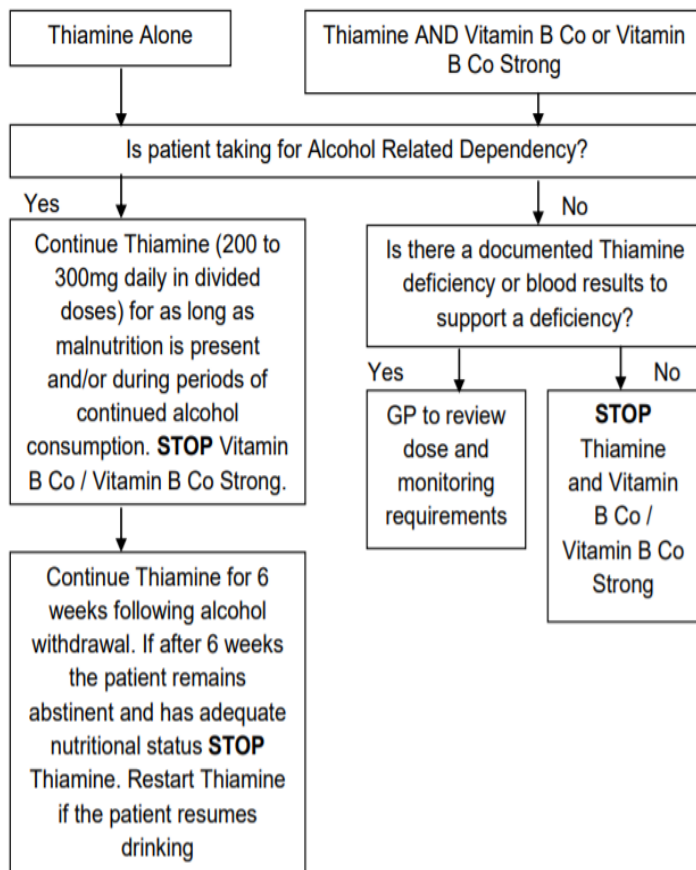
Welcome to the December edition of the Medicines Management Newsletter, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well during this time. This newsletter is distributed to all practices and pharmacies in the Barnsley area and aims to keep you informed of the latest medicine updates, drug alerts/recalls and the work currently being completed in GP Practices by the Medicines Management Team.

Medicines Optimisation Scheme (MOS) 2021-22

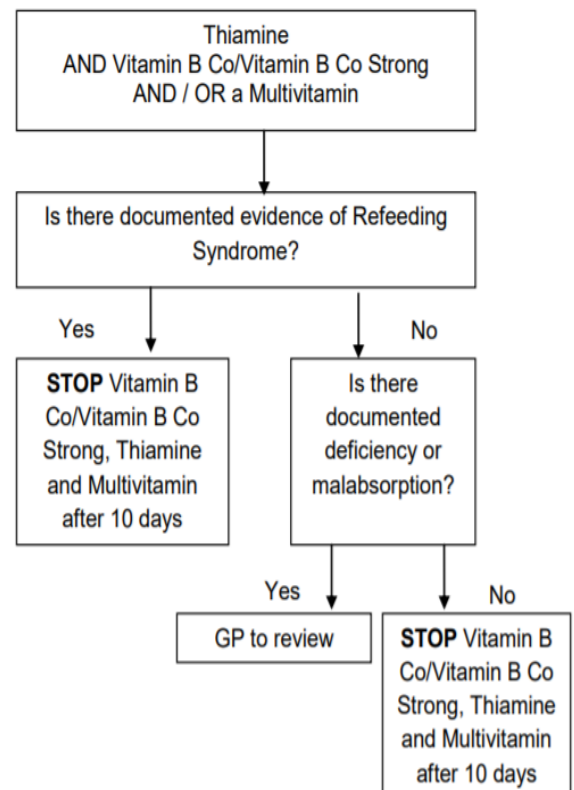
Over the next couple of months, the Clinical Pharmacists will be reviewing patients prescribed Vitamin B Co, Vitamin B Co Strong and/or Thiamine to assess the appropriateness of the prescription inline with the prescribing algorithm housed within the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee "Vitamin B Co and Vitamin B Co Strong Prescribing and Medication Review Guidance."

<http://barnsleybest.nhs.sitekit.net/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Vit%20B%20Co%20and%20Vit%20B%20Co%20Strong.pdf?UNLID=58570282202162293946>

Alcohol Related Dependency Patients



Refeeding Patients



Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Prescribing Guidelines

The **Guidance on the use of Strong Opioids in Barnsley** (previously entitled Opioid Comparison Document) has been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Opioid%20Comparison.pdf>

Sayana Press® - Guidance for Primary Care has been updated:

https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Sayana_Press.pdf?UNLID=7439811272021126115729

The **Chronic Coronary Syndrome (Previously Known as Stable Angina) Management** guideline has been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/cvs-chronic-coronary-syndrome-apc-approved/78899>

The **Guideline for the Management of Children and Young Adults with Suspected Vitamin D Deficiency in Primary Care** has been updated and now includes a separate 2-page summary document:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/msk-vitamin-d-guidelines-children-apc-approved/526019>

The **Barnsley Asthma Guideline for adults – including algorithm and inhaler chart** has been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Asthma%20treatment%20algorithm.pdf>

The **NEW Guidance on the Prescribing of Oral Nutritional Supplements in Dysphagia** has been produced following the addition of the pre-thickened ONS Slo Milkshakes® (IDDSI level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4) to the formulary with an amber-G classification:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/gi-prescribing-of-ons-in-dysphagia-apc-approved/526064>

The **NEW Guidance for the Appropriate Prescribing for Phenylketonuria (PKU)** has been produced in consultation with the specialist dietitians at Sheffield Children's Hospital. All patients with PKU will be under the care of the specialists.

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/gi-appropriate-prescribing-for-phenylketonuria-pku-apc-approved/526061>

The **Management of stable COPD guideline** has received minor updates:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/COPD%20inhaled%20therapies.pdf?UNLID=389456909201891414103>

The **Drug Management of Neuropathic Pain guideline** has been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Neuropathic%20Pain%20Drug%20Management.pdf>

Shared Care / Amber G guidelines

The **NEW Dapagliflozin (Forxiga®) for Heart Failure with reduced Ejection Fraction (HFrEF) Amber-G guideline** is available:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/shared-care-guidelines/Dapagliflozin%20Guidelines.pdf>

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

- **Trimbow NEXThaler®** (Beclometasone + formoterol + glycopyrronium), indicated for maintenance of moderate to severe COPD, has been assigned a **formulary green** classification.
- **Bemiparin (Zibor®)**, a low molecular weight heparin, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional amber** classification.
- **Hydrocortisone (Efmody®) extended-release capsules**, indicated for treatment of congenital adrenal hyperplasia, have been assigned a **non-formulary provisional grey** classification.
- **Tirbanibulin (Klisyri®) ointment**, indicated for treatment of non-hyperkeratotic, non-hypertrophic actinic keratosis (Olsen grade 1) of the face or scalp, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional amber** classification.

Flu Vaccine Programme

Thank you to all practices and community pharmacies who are continuing to support the flu vaccination programme. Should any provider require further support with any aspect of the vaccination programme, please contact christian.taylor@nhs.net or claire.pendleton@nhs.net.

Vaccine stock

GP practices requiring additional vaccines can order DHSC stock via the following link: [DHSC Additional Stock Primary Care Ordering Form](#) (please also refer to [national guidance](#)).

Community pharmacies can order additional stock from wholesalers.

The information regarding community pharmacy flu vaccine stock and appointment availability continues to be updated fortnightly and can be accessed via the [BEST website](#).

Should any provider have surplus stock which is unlikely to be used this season please contact christian.taylor@nhs.net or claire.pendleton@nhs.net.

Pregnant women

It has been brought to our attention that the flu searches for this cohort may pull in some patients who are not currently pregnant due to coding issues, some of which have since been rectified.

We have also been advised that the flu vaccines administered by the maternity service may not automatically be coded in the patient's record and may therefore need adding manually.

It is recommended that the patient's record is reviewed to check that the patient is pregnant and hasn't received the vaccine elsewhere.

Feedback

To support with learning and planning around future flu vaccination programmes we welcome examples of success stories and any other feedback which may help to promote further uptake of the vaccine in future years e.g. common reasons encountered for declining the vaccine.

Feedback can be emailed to christian.taylor@nhs.net and/or claire.pendleton@nhs.net.

Medication Review Service: Care Homes

The online proxy medication ordering is now in place across Barnsley with 26 GP practices using it for at least one of their aligned care homes along with 60% of CQC registered care homes.

By allowing care home staff to order residents medication online it **allows the care home to see what is on the residents repeat list at the GP practice, orders can be placed at any time of the day to suit the care home, they can see if an item has been ordered and when it is next due to be ordered, it is paperless, reduces care home staff visiting GP practices for prescriptions, reduces staff time spent in processing medicines and reduces waste.**

This system is auditable so any issues and trends can be identified easily.

Examples of feedback from practices:

'Thoroughly recommend it. So much easier than the care homes ringing us all the time'

'Carers can see when medicines are issued so not ringing as much'

'Calls cut down drastically'

For further information or if you would like to set up online proxy medication ordering in your practice please contact the Medication Review Service via email barnccg.mrsenquiries@nhs.net or via telephone on 01226 433798.

MHRA Safety Updates

The latest MHRA safety updates are available to view online.

December 2021 Volume 15: Issue 5

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1039922/Dec-2021-DSU-PDF.pdf

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

Haloperidol (Haldol): reminder of risks when used in elderly patients for the acute treatment of delirium

We remind healthcare professionals that elderly patients are at an increased risk of adverse neurological and cardiac effects when being treated with haloperidol for delirium. The lowest possible dose of haloperidol should be used for the shortest possible time, and cardiac and extrapyramidal adverse effects should be closely monitored.

Dapagliflozin (Forxiga): no longer authorised for treatment of type 1 diabetes mellitus

The authorisation holder for dapagliflozin has withdrawn the indication for type 1 diabetes mellitus. The removal of the type 1 diabetes indication is not due to any new safety concerns and the other indications of dapagliflozin are unchanged.

COVID-19 vaccines: updates for December 2021

Recent information relating to COVID-19 vaccines and medicines that has been published since the November 2021 issue of Drug Safety Update, up to 3rd December 2021

Approval of Xevudy (sotrovimab), a monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19

We have [approved Xevudy \(sotrovimab\)](#) following a rigorous review of its safety, quality & effectiveness by us and the government's independent expert scientific advisory body, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). This is the second monoclonal antibody therapeutic to be approved following [Ronapreve](#) (molnupiravir).

Xevudy (sotrovimab) is safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19 infection who are at an increased risk of developing severe disease.

Xevudy works by interfering with the replication of the virus, binding to the COVID-19 spike protein and preventing the virus from attaching to and entering human cells. Based on the clinical trial data, sotrovimab is most effective when taken during the early stages of infection and so the MHRA recommends its use as soon as possible and within five days of symptom onset.

Like [molnupiravir](#), Xevudy has been authorised for use in people who have mild to moderate COVID-19 infection and at least one risk factor for developing severe illness. Such risk factors include obesity, older age (over 55 years), diabetes mellitus, or heart disease. Unlike molnupiravir, sotrovimab is administered by intravenous infusion over 30 minutes. It is approved for individuals aged 12 and above who weigh more than 40kg.

For more information about Xevudy (sotrovimab), see our [Press release](#) and [Decision page](#) which includes the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and [Patient Information Leaflet](#).

Summaries of Yellow Card reporting and other recent MHRA publications

We continue to publish the summaries of the [Yellow Card reporting for the COVID-19 vaccines](#) being used in the UK. The report summarises information received via the Yellow Card scheme and will be published regularly to include other safety investigations carried out by the MHRA under the [COVID-19 Vaccine Surveillance Strategy](#).

We have also recently:

- updated sections of the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and [Patient Information Leaflet](#) for COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer/BioNTech to include information about receiving a third/booster dose, added the official international non-proprietary name 'tozinameran' and included two new reagents, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid, which are used in small quantities during the preparation of one of the solutions used in the manufacturing process
- published the Public Assessment Report (PAR) for Ronapreve, an antibody treatment for COVID-19. Please see the [Decision](#) page on our website which has more details about Ronapreve
- [published a statement](#) on the expansion of the COVID-19 vaccination booster programme

We previously included summaries of latest COVID-19 information, including in the [August 2021](#), [September 2021](#) and [November 2021](#) issues of Drug Safety Update.

Reporting Yellow Cards

Report suspected side effects to medicines, vaccines, medical device and test kit incidents used in coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and treatment using the dedicated [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#) or the Yellow Card app.

Patient Group Directions Update

Yorkshire and the Humber Screening and Immunisation Team emailed out the following updated PGDs to Practice Managers:

- Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (valid from 15.10.21)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis and Inactivated Poliomyelitis Vaccine (valid from 01.12.21)

Practice Managers are asked to share the PGDs with all practitioners planning to work under them and to ensure individual practitioner authorisation.

The PGDs are available on the NHSE website along with all other current PGDs:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/north-east-yorkshire/our-work/information-for-professionals/pgds/>

If Practice Managers do not receive emails about updated PGDs from the Screening and Immunisation Team please email:

joanne.howlett2@nhs.net or joypower@nhs.net (Medicines Management Pharmacists) and this can be arranged.

Support to Community Pharmacies

As part of the CCG's continued effort to support community pharmacies, brief check-in calls will continue to be made to see how community pharmacists and their teams are managing through these challenging times. The calls are an opportunity for community pharmacies to raise any issues or concerns they may have.

Pharmacies are advised to flag any significant issues or concerns as soon as possible and do not need to wait for the next call.

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:

- Shoab 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 Claire Taylor, MMT Administration Officer on email address claire.taylor18@nhs.net

Many Thanks