

Medicines Management Newsletter

August/September 2022

Welcome to the August/September 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)

Shared Care Guidelines

The **SYB Shared Care Protocol for the treatment of Parkinson's Disease** is available:

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

Prescribing Guidelines

The **NEW Choice of Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) for prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adults with non-valvular AF (NVAf) APC Position Statement** is available: <https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/cvs-choice-of-doac-for-prevention-of-stroke-and-systemic-embolism-in-adults-with-nvaf-apc-position-statement-apc-approved/618139>

Where a DOAC is considered to be the most appropriate anticoagulant for patients with NVAf, edoxaban (Lixiana®) is to be used first line unless there is a specific clinical reason not to do so. Refer to the position statement for further information.

The updated **Co-proxamol APC Position Statement** is available:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Co-proxamol%20position%20statement.pdf?UNLID=8971717612022912124155>

The **Barnsley Lipid Management for Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) in Adults guidance [NEW]** and **Barnsley Severe Hyperlipidaemia Pathway [NEW]** are available:

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

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/Barnsley%20Severe%20Hyperlipidaemia%20Pathway.pdf>

These guidelines have been adapted for Barnsley from the [NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative Summary of National Guidance for Lipid Management for Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD](#). Barnsley guidance on lipid management for secondary prevention of CVD in adults is in development.

Templates for the GP clinical systems will be developed to support implementation of the guidance.

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

- **Netilmicin (Nettacin®)** eye drops, indicated for topical treatment of external infections of the eye, have been assigned a **non-formulary provisional red** classification.
- **Netilmicin + dexamethasone (Netildex®)** eye drops, indicated for treatment of inflammatory ocular conditions of the anterior segment of the eye, including post-operative cases, have been assigned a **non-formulary provisional red** classification.
- **Dexamethasone and levofloxacin (Duressa®)** eye drops, indicated for prevention and treatment of inflammation, and prevention of infection associated with cataract surgery, have been assigned a **non-formulary provisional grey** classification.
- **Olanzapine (Zyprexa®) injection**, indicated for schizophrenia or manic episode, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional red** classification.
- **Paliperidone prolonged release injection (Trevicta®)**, indicated for treatment and maintenance of schizophrenia, has been assigned a **formulary red** classification (previously non-formulary provisional red).
- **Risperidone prolonged release injection (Okedi®)**, indicated for treatment of schizophrenia, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional red** classification.
- **Dapagliflozin, indicated for Chronic Kidney Disease**, has been assigned a **formulary amber-G** classification. Note that the traffic light classification of dapagliflozin varies depending on the indication. Amber-G guidance is in development.
- **Darifenacin**, indicated for overactive bladder syndrome, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional grey** classification (previously formulary green).
- **Icosapent ethyl**, in line with [TA805](#), has been assigned a **formulary red** classification (previously non-formulary provisional grey). It is to be reclassified as formulary amber once Shared Care Guidance is developed.

SYB SCP for the treatment of Parkinson's disease:

- **Co-beneldopa** has been assigned a formulary amber classification (previously formulary green)
- **Co-careldopa** has been assigned a formulary amber classification (previously formulary green)
- **Selegiline** has been assigned a formulary amber classification (previously formulary green)
- **Safinamide** has been assigned a formulary amber classification (previously non-formulary provisional red)

MHRA Drug Safety Update

The **June and July 2022** MHRA Drug Safety Updates can be accessed at the following links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084085/June-2022-DSU-PDF.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092865/July-2022-DSU-PDF.pdf

Summary of issues relating to primary care (advice for healthcare professionals and patients can be found in the above links):

Metformin and reduced vitamin B12 levels: new advice for monitoring patients at risk

Decreased vitamin B12 levels, or vitamin B12 deficiency, is now considered to be a common side effect in patients on metformin treatment, especially in those receiving a higher dose or longer treatment duration and in those with existing risk factors. The MHRA are therefore advising checking vitamin B12 serum levels in patients being treated with metformin who have symptoms suggestive of vitamin B12 deficiency. They also advise that periodic monitoring for patients with risk factors for vitamin B12 deficiency should be considered.

Roche Accu-Chek Insight insulin pump with NovoRapid PumpCart insulin cartridges: alert following cases of insulin leakage.

The MHRA have issued a National Patient Safety Alert following serious reports of harm associated with insulin leakage during use of the Accu-Chek Insight Insulin pump with NovoRapid PumpCart prefilled insulin cartridges. Patients should be moved onto alternative insulin pumps where possible.

It was noted in the APC meeting that the Barnsley Diabetes Service were progressing the actions in relation to this alert.

Topiramate (Topamax): start of safety review triggered by a study reporting an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disabilities in children with prenatal exposure.

The MHRA have initiated a new safety review into topiramate as a result of an observational study reporting an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disabilities in children whose mothers took topiramate during pregnancy.

Topiramate is known to be associated with an increased risk of congenital malformations and effects on fetal growth if used during pregnancy. Continue to counsel patients who can become pregnant on the known and emerging risks of topiramate for an unborn baby and on the need to use effective contraception throughout use.

Patient Group Directions Update

Yorkshire and the Humber Screening and Immunisation Team emailed out the following updated PGDs to Practice Managers on 22.08.22:

- Live attenuated influenza vaccine nasal spray suspension (LAIV) - Fluenz® Tetra (valid from 1.9.22)
- Inactivated influenza vaccine (valid from 1.9.22)
- Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23) - Pneumovax®23 (valid from 31.8.22)

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 (Medicines Management Pharmacist) and this can be arranged.

Flu Vaccination Programme 2022-23

Carers Searches Available

The Medicines Management Team have published some searches to identify patients coded as a carer to help you to identify them for a flu vaccine.

For practices who were going to use Ardens searches for this, please be aware that not all of the carer codes that are used by practices are included in the Ardens search.

Emis searches are published in the EMIS Enterprise system in CCG Library -> MMT -> Flu -> Carer Invites.

S1 searches are published in TPP Practices -> Medicines Management -> Flu Prep (searches 01 to 01c)

Using SystemOne to Invite Patients for Vaccination

One of our practices has had great success in using SystemOne to invite patients for a flu vaccine at one of their clinics. The system can be used to send text messages to patients with a link to enable them to book an appointment from their phone.

There is a guide in SystemOne in the 'Help' section under: 'Support and FAQs' -> 'Documents and Training Guides' -> 'Bulk Register and Appointment Booking Website'. eGPLearning has also published a video ([available here](#)) in which a GP discusses how he uses this system functionality.

For EMIS and Vision practices, AccuRx has a similar functionality (accuBook), details of which can be [found here](#).

Posters Available for Health Professionals

The UK Health Security Agency have published a summary and poster for health professionals detailing which flu vaccine preparations can be given to the different age and risk groups.

The documents relating to all age and risk groups are [available here](#).

Further information on which vaccine(s) to give to under 18s is [available here](#).

Flu Vaccine Ordering for 2023-24

We have been informed that some companies are currently accepting orders for the 2023-24 flu season.

Whilst 2023-24 guidance isn't currently available, we would like to remind practices to consider the preferred vaccine types for the initial cohorts in 2022-23 if placing orders for 2023-24:

- 65s and over: Seqirus aQIV or Sanofi Supemtek® QIVr
- 18 to 64 years in a clinical risk group: Seqirus QIVc or Sanofi Supemtek® QIVr

Practices are also advised to refer to the ordering terms and conditions to ensure that orders can be cancelled or amended if required should there be any change to the recommended vaccines when the 2023-24 guidance is available.

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:

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 Sarah Bedford or Claire Taylor
via email address sarah.bedford3@nhs.net or claire.taylor18@nhs.net**

Many Thanks