

Our Ref: DC/NB

12th June 2023

To: Prescribing Clinicians and Pharmacists within the Barnsley locality

Dear Colleague

Re: Summary of Key Points from the Area Prescribing Committee Meeting on 10th May 2023

The main outcomes of the meetings were: -

Shared Care Guidelines

Shared Care Protocol for Myasthenia Gravis or Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculopathy in Adults [NEW].

This shared care protocol has been written to enable the continuation of care by primary care clinicians of patients initiated on azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil or methotrexate for Myasthenia Gravis or Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculoneuropathy by the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Neurologists, where this is appropriate and in the patients' best interests. The guideline covers the pharmacological management only, which is only one aspect of the care pathway.

The shared care protocol can be accessed via the BEST website:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/shared-care-guidelines/myasthenia-gravis-or-chronic-inflammatory-demyelinating-polyradiculopathy-in-adults-apc-approved/628990>

Shared Care and Amber-G guidelines are available on the BEST website:

<http://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/shared-care-guidelines/>.

Prescribers (including secondary care clinicians) are encouraged to report any problems they experience with shared care or other medicines related issues, particularly where guidelines are not being complied with, to the following email address: BarnsleyAPCReport@nhs.net.

The Barnsley Interface Issues Form should be used to report such problems:

<http://www.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/members-professionals/area-prescribing-committee.htm>

Prescribing Guidelines

No new/updated Barnsley prescribing guidelines were approved by the Committee this month.

Prescribing guidelines are available on the BEST website:

<http://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/prescribing-guidelines/>

The Barnsley Joint Formulary can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.barnsleyformulary.nhs.uk/>

Traffic Light Classifications

The Committee assigned the following classifications to the products included in the table below.

| Drug | Formulary Indication | Traffic light status |
|---|--|--|
| Covid-19 vaccine (VidPrevtyl Beta®) | Active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 in line with national guidance | Formulary green |
| Elasomeran + davesomeran (Spikevax® bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4-5) | Active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 in line with national guidance | Formulary green |
| IQoro device | Neuromuscular training device | Non-formulary grey |
| Hydrocortisone extended-release 5mg and 10mg capsules (Efmody®) | Congenital adrenal hyperplasia | Formulary red until shared care protocol available. South Yorkshire shared care protocol in development |

MHRA Drug Safety Update

The April 2023 MHRA Drug Safety Updates can be accessed at the following link:

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

Issues relating to primary care:

| Nitrofurantoin: <u>reminder</u> of the risks of pulmonary and hepatic adverse drug reactions |
|--|
| Healthcare professionals prescribing nitrofurantoin should be alert to the risks of pulmonary and hepatic adverse drug reactions and advise patients to be vigilant for the signs and symptoms in need of further investigation. |
| Advice for healthcare professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">advise patients and caregivers to be vigilant for new or worsening respiratory symptoms while taking nitrofurantoin and promptly investigate any symptoms that may indicate a pulmonary adverse reactionpulmonary reactions may occur with short- or long-term use of nitrofurantoin, and increased vigilance for acute pulmonary reactions is required in the first week of treatmentpatients receiving long-term therapy, for example for recurrent urinary tract infections, should be closely monitored for new or worsening respiratory symptoms, especially if elderlyimmediately discontinue nitrofurantoin if new or worsening symptoms of pulmonary damage occurbe vigilant for symptoms and signs of liver dysfunction in patients taking nitrofurantoin for any duration, but particularly with long-term use, and monitor patients periodically for signs of hepatitis and for changes in biochemical tests that would indicate hepatitis or liver injuryuse caution when prescribing nitrofurantoin in patients with pulmonary disease or hepatic dysfunction, which may mask the signs and symptoms of adverse reactionsadvise patients to read carefully the advice in the Patient Information Leaflet about symptoms of possible pulmonary and hepatic reactions and to seek medical advice if they experience these symptomsreport suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the Yellow Card scheme |
| Advice for healthcare professionals to give to patients and caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">nitrofurantoin is an effective antibiotic used to prevent and treat infections of the bladder, kidney, and other parts of the urinary tract, but it has been linked to side effects affecting the lungs and liver |

- if you are taking nitrofurantoin, seek medical advice if you experience trouble breathing, shortness of breath, a lingering cough, coughing up blood or mucus, or pain or discomfort when breathing. These may be symptoms of a side effect affecting the lungs
- talk to your doctor or another healthcare professional promptly if you develop yellowing of the skin or eyes, upper right abdominal pain, dark urine and pale or grey-coloured stools, itching or joint pain and swelling. These may be symptoms of a side effect affecting the liver

Regards



Deborah Cooke
Lead Pharmacist

cc: Medicines Management Team
Rebecca Hoskins, BHNFT
Mike Smith, BHNFT
Sarah Hudson, SWYPFT
Area Prescribing Committee Members (Secretary to the APC to circulate)
Local Medical Committee (Secretary to the LMC to circulate)
Alex Molyneux, Chief Pharmacy Officer, South Yorkshire ICB
Heidi Taylor, South Yorkshire ICB (Sheffield)
Charlotte McMurray, South Yorkshire ICB (Doncaster)
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