

Medicines Management Newsletter

September 2021

Welcome to the September 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

Antibiotic Prescribing and Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)

a) AMS Practice Meeting

The practice will discuss and reflect on antibiotic prescribing and antimicrobial stewardship during a meeting with allocated CCG Medicines Management Team member(s). The meeting (which can be held remotely via Microsoft Teams or similar) should take place by 12th November 2021 and incorporate the following discussion points:

- antibiotic prescribing patterns within the practice in reference to recent prescribing data
- prescribing guidelines and other useful resources
- key points within the CCG antimicrobial stewardship resource pack 2021-22
- engaging with the European Antibiotic Awareness Day/ World Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 2021) during the Covid pandemic

b) Prescribing Targets

The percentage of cephalosporin, quinolone and co-amoxiclav from all antibiotics prescribed by the practice (January to December 2021) is below 8% or has reduced by 10% (January to December 2021 compared with January to December 2020).

AND

The number of antibiotic prescriptions (Items/STAR PU) issued by the practice (January to December 2021) is below 0.965 or has reduced by 5% (January to December 2021 compared with January to December 2020).

c) Audit work

The practice will audit the use of prophylactic antibiotics for urinary tract infections and complete other selected audits as per the requirements and timeframes in the CCG antimicrobial stewardship resource pack 2021-22.

The audit results will demonstrate that 80% of prescribing is in line with local guidance

OR

The practice will agree and implement an action plan if the 80% target has not been met. Action plan to be agreed and submitted by 28th February 2022.

Any queries can be sent to the Medicines Management Team via email address Barnsleyccg.mosreporting@nhs.net or by calling the team office on 01226 433798.

Flu vaccination programme 2021-22

As in previous years, collaborative working between GP practices and local community pharmacies is recommended in order to maximise vaccine uptake across Barnsley. We are in the process of reviewing information provided by GP practices and community pharmacies to support with this. An example of good practice locally includes GP practices and pharmacies working together to vaccinate care home residents and staff.

This year the service specification enables GP practices to vaccinate both care home patients and staff who are not registered at the practice. This will enable GP practices to vaccinate all patients in their aligned care home(s) and this approach is recommended, in liaison with the patient's registered practice. Additional guidance is expected on the recording / claiming of the administration of the vaccine to patients who are not registered at the practice.

Information on which community pharmacies are providing the flu vaccine service this year is available on the BEST website [Community Pharmacy Influenza Vaccine Information 2021-2022 - BEST \(barnsleyccg.nhs.uk\)](https://www.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/CommunityPharmacyInfluenzaVaccineInformation2021-2022-BEST) This will be updated with information on vaccine availability throughout the flu season and community pharmacies are kindly asked to submit this information via the PharmOutcomes flu vaccine platform on a regular basis (fortnightly initially) to enable the information to remain as up to date as possible.

Patient Group Directions Update

Yorkshire and the Humber Screening and Immunisation Team emailed out the following updated PGDs to Practice Managers on 08.09.21 (valid from 01.09.2021):

- Inactivated influenza vaccine
- Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, inactivated poliomyelitis, Haemophilus influenzae type b and hepatitis B vaccine (DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB)
- Human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV)
- Live attenuated influenza vaccine nasal spray suspension (LAIV)

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.

Nutritional Products - Education Sessions/Webinars

Several new nutritional products have been released over the last few months. Subsequently, there has been an increase in promotional activity including invitations for clinicians to attend product related education sessions/webinars.

Please be aware that there is a nutritional formulary in Barnsley that lists the nutritional products that have received approval by the Area Prescribing Committee (APC) for prescribing.

The nutritional formulary can be found here:

<http://www.barnsleyformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=9&SubSectionRef=09.04&SubSectionID=A100>.

The Medicines Management Dietitian is available to advise on nutrition related prescribing queries and can be contacted via email at justin.ward@nhs.net

Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Shared Care / Amber-G Guidelines

The [Linaclotide \(Constella®\) Amber-G guideline](#) has been updated and now includes information on the use of linaclotide during pregnancy and when breast-feeding.

The [Aromatase inhibitors Amber-G Guideline](#) has received minor amendments including additional information on the frequency of follow-up of DEXA scans for women with osteoporosis or at risk of osteoporosis.

The [Nalmefene \(Selincro®\) Amber-G Guideline](#) has received minor amendments including a change from LDQ (Leeds Dependence Questionnaire) to SADQ (Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire).

Prescribing Guidelines

The NEW **Clinical Guideline: proton pump inhibitors and alternatives to subcutaneous ranitidine** details alternatives to subcutaneous ranitidine for palliative care patients due to ongoing stock issues with ranitidine. Pantoprazole injection has been added to the formulary as restricted with an amber-G classification in the interim whilst ranitidine injection is unavailable:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/palliative-care-clinical-guideline-ppi-and-alternatives-to-subcutaneous-ranitidine/474525>

The **Fentanyl and buprenorphine skin patches: How to use and dispose of them safely** patient information leaflet has been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/patient-information-sheets/Fentanyl%20and%20Buprenorphine%20Transdermal%20Patch%20safety%20leaflet.pdf>

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

- **Cyanocobalamin tablets** (CyanocoMinn®), for Vitamin B12 deficiency of dietary origin/ Non-dietary vitamin B12 deficiency during the COVID-19 pandemic in line with BSH/Barnsley guidance, have been added to the formulary with a **green classification**. CyanocoMinn® is the cost-effective brand of choice in Primary Care in Barnsley as agreed by the Committee. [Guidance on alternatives to vitamin B12 injections during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) is available on the BEST website.
- **Insulin Aspart biosimilar (Trurapi®)** Sanofi, has been assigned a **non-formulary provisional green classification**.
- **Slo Milkshakes** IDDSI Levels 1,2,3 and 4, which are pre-thickened ONS with ACBS approval for prescribing in dysphagic patients, have been added to the formulary with an **amber-G classification**. Slo Milkshakes should ONLY be prescribed for patients under Dietitian's care who are treated for malnutrition AND with a diagnosed dysphagia (by Speech and Language Therapist SLT) recommendation of thickened fluids (IDDSI level 1,2,3 or 4). Local guidance on pre-thickened ONS is currently in development.
- **Thuasne® Action Reliever** Osteoarthritis Knee Brace has been added to the formulary with a **red classification**.

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.

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:

- Shoaib Ashfaq, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – s.ashfaq@nhs.net
- Mir Khan, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – mir.khan1@nhs.net
- Danny Speight, Medicines Management Technician – daniel.speight1@nhs.net

MHRA Safety Updates

The latest MHRA safety updates are available to view online.

September 2021 Volume 15: Issue 2

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017844/Sept-2021-DSU-PDF.pdf

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

Topical corticosteroids: information on the risk of topical steroid withdrawal reactions

Rarely, severe adverse effects can occur on stopping treatment with topical corticosteroids, often after long-term continuous or inappropriate use of moderate to high potency products. To reduce the risks of these events, prescribe the topical corticosteroid of lowest potency needed and ensure patients know how to use it safely and effectively.

COVID-19 vaccines: updates for September 2021

Recent information relating to COVID-19 vaccines and medicines that has been published since the August 2021 issue of Drug Safety Update, up to 9 September 2021.

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:

- [published a statement](#) on booster doses of Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines
- given [approval to Ronapreve▼ \(casirivimab/imdevimab\)](#), a monoclonal antibody treatment for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. For more information about this medicine see the [Decision](#) page which includes the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and [Patient Information Leaflet](#)
- updated the shelf life, special precautions for storage and special precautions for disposal in the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and [Patient Information Leaflet](#) for Spikevax (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna)
- added a precautionary warning about Guillain-Barré Syndrome to the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and [Patient Information Leaflet](#) for Vaxzevria (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca) following a review of the available data
- [authorised an extension](#) to the current UK approval of the Spikevax vaccine (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) that allows its use in 12 to 17 year olds

We have previously provided summaries of the latest COVID-19 information, including in the [June 2021](#), [July 2021](#) and [August 2021](#) issues of Drug Safety Update.

See [guidance on COVID-19 for all our latest information](#), including after publication of this article.

Reporting Yellow Cards

Suspected adverse reactions associated with COVID-19 vaccines should be reported to the MHRA through the MHRA's [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting](#) site or via the Yellow Card app.

As these products are under additional monitoring this includes all suspected ADRs associated with these vaccines. This will allow quick identification of new safety information.

When reporting please provide as much information as possible, including information about medical history, any concomitant medications, onset, treatment dates, and vaccine product brand name and batch number.

You may be contacted following submission of a Yellow Card report so that we can gather additional relevant information for the assessment of the report. These contributions form an important part of our understanding of suspected adverse event.

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 Assistant on email address

claire.taylor18@nhs.net

Many Thanks