

Our Ref: DC/NB

13th December 2023

To: Prescribing Clinicians and Pharmacists within the Barnsley locality

Dear Colleague

Re: Summary of Key Points from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee Meeting on 8th November 2023.

The main outcomes of the meeting were: -

Prescribing Guidelines

The following prescribing guidelines were approved by the Committee:

[Un-investigated Dyspepsia Pathway \[NEW\]](#)

This pathway has been adapted from the British Society of Gastroenterology guidelines on the management of functional dyspepsia September 2022 and the NICE Dyspepsia Guidelines CG 184. It includes causes of dyspepsia, investigations and management of functional dyspepsia in primary care.

Amber G / Shared Care Guidelines

The following amber-G / shared care guidelines were approved by the Committee:

[Goserelin 3.6mg implant \(Zoladex®\) Amber-G guideline for adjuvant treatment of breast cancer in premenopausal and perimenopausal women \[UPDATED\]](#)

This guideline has undergone a routine update in line with the current BNF and SPC. The following changes have been made:

- The specialist should specify the length of treatment with Zoladex® 3.6mg implant.
- Since androgen deprivation treatment may prolong the QT interval, the specialist should consider carrying out a baseline ECG prior to the initiation of Zoladex®. The specialist should also consider repeating the ECG post initiation of Zoladex® (added to monitoring section).
- The specialist should assess the risk of osteoporosis (goserelin may cause reduction in bone mineral density). The specialist will request the baseline DEXA scan where required. Once the patient is discharged, the primary care clinician should request any further DEXA scans if recommended after the baseline scan (added to monitoring section).
- Patients with known depression and patients with hypertension should be monitored carefully. The following has been added to the monitoring section: In the case of patients with known depression, the patient should be counselled by the initiating specialist, and this should be documented in the patient's notes. Blood pressure should be measured before initiation of Zoladex® and if the patient

is found to have hypertension, the primary care clinician should be advised in writing so that the patient can be managed appropriately.

[Shared Care Protocol for the Use of Efmody® in Patients with Adrenal Insufficiency \(CAH\) \[NEW\]](#)

This new South Yorkshire guideline is available on the IMOC website and can also be accessed via the BEST website at the above link.

Prescribing guidelines are available on the BEST website:

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

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

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

The Barnsley Joint Formulary can be accessed at the link below:

<http://www.barnsleyformulary.nhs.uk/>

Healthcare professionals (including primary and secondary care clinicians and community pharmacists) are encouraged to report any medicines related interface issues (examples include shared care, prescribing guideline, formulary or discharge related issues), particularly where guidelines are not being complied with, to the following email address: BarnsleyAPCReport@nhs.net.

The Barnsley Interface Issues Form available on the BEST website should be used to report the issue: [link](#)

Other

Barnsley Care Home Influenza Outbreak SOP 2023

Earlier in the year supporting information on the prescribing and dispensing of antiviral medicines to Barnsley care home residents following an influenza outbreak was produced for use in conjunction with the Barnsley Care Home Influenza Outbreak Protocol. The Barnsley Care Home Influenza Outbreak 2023 SOP is now available and both guidelines can be accessed on the BEST website: [Health Protection Board: Dissemination of Care Home Influenza Outbreak SOP \(barnsleyccg.nhs.uk\)](#)

SWYPFT Greenlight Alerts

The following Greenlight alerts were received by the Committee and have been enclosed with this memo:

- Liquid Medicines
- Medicines that increase risk of suicidal ideation

Barnsley Formulary Updates

The Committee noted the traffic light classifications recently assigned by the SY IMOC and the following formulary positions were agreed by the Committee:

Drug	Formulary Indication	Formulary status (including traffic light classification)
November 2023 IMOC Horizon Scanning		
COVID-19 vaccine	Immunisation against COVID-19	Formulary green In line with national recommendations. Refer to the Green Book .
Other		
Dekas® plus liquid	Non - cystic fibrosis patients	Non-formulary grey

Dekas® plus liquid	Children under 3 years with cystic fibrosis	Formulary green
Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (Varilrix®, Varivax®)	Vaccine for use prior to immunosuppression, in adults and children without immunity	Formulary red

MHRA Drug Safety Update

The October 2023 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:

Valproate: dispense full packs of valproate-containing medicines
Unless there are exceptional circumstances, valproate-containing medicines must always be dispensed in the manufacturer's original full pack.
Following a consultation, the Government has amended the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMRs) to require manufacturer's original full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines. The MHRA published guidance for dispensing of valproate-containing medicines: Full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) . The change came into force in England, Scotland and Wales on 11 October 2023. Further information can be found in the October Drug Safety Update .

Regards



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cc: Medicines Management Team
Rebecca Hoskins, BHNFT
Nisha Pounj-Taylor, BHNFT
Osman Chohan, 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 Place)
Charlotte McMurray, South Yorkshire ICB (Doncaster Place)
Stuart Lakin, South Yorkshire ICB (Rotherham Place)

Enc: SWYFT Greenlight Alert November 2023. Liquid Medicines.
SWYFT Greenlight Alert November 2023. Medicines that increase risk of suicidal ideation.