

Medicines Management Newsletter

October 2020

Welcome to the October 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) 2020-21

Eclipse Live: RADAR Reviews

Review of Eclipse RADAR alerts has assumed a greater importance as a tool to identify patients who (due to COVID 19) may be at a higher clinical risk and at increased risk of hospital admission.

The alerts are currently split into two categories and three sub-categories:

1. Admission Avoidance – red, amber and blue
2. Monitoring – red, amber and blue

Previously, practices have been required to review RED and AMBER ADMISSION AVOIDANCE ALERTS for the Medicines Optimisation Scheme, however during the current COVID19 pandemic; it has been acknowledged that there would be substantial benefits in reviewing the other categories of alerts.

Medicines Optimisation Scheme 20/21 criteria:

The practice will be signed up to Eclipse Live software; run RADAR reports a minimum of once a week and prioritise for review the patients identified to be at the highest clinical risk:

- 100% of Barnsley red admission avoidance and monitoring high priority alerts to be reviewed at least once every 1 to 2 weeks
- 75% of Barnsley admission avoidance and monitoring amber and blue alerts to be reviewed every 1 to 2 weeks

It has been acknowledged that the inclusion of these categories will result in an increase in the number of patients to review. Practices will be given extra time to 'catch up' and we will be looking at all practices hitting the 100% red and 75% amber/blue reviews completed target by the 11th December deadline.

NHS Pathways should be used to review the alert. Once you have logged in, please click on the "Eclipse Live" icon and then on the next screen select the "CCG Alerts" icon to view your practice alerts.

<https://www.nhspathways.org/nhspathways/login.aspx>

For further information, please refer to the letter which was circulated to all Practice Managers via email on the 6th October 2020.

Eclipse: Review of High Cost Drug Report

As part of the Medicines Optimisation Scheme, the following is also required:

The practice has completed a review of High Cost drug data available via the Eclipse Solutions website for their practice over a recent 6 month period. Patients will be reviewed to ensure prescribing is appropriate and in line with local guidance.

Guidance has been circulated to MMT members and the reviews will be completed by the MMT members working in each practice.

Any queries can be sent to the Medicines Management Team via email address Barnsleyccg.mosreporting@nhs.net or by calling the team on 01226 433669.

Patient Registration to Online Services

Patient Registration to Online Services – Vouching

We have received intelligence that in some cases patients are still being asked to physically attend the practice to present identification for registration to online services.

You may recall as part of the Medicines Ordering Safety and Waste programme of work it was confirmed by NHS England there were three types of vouching patients for registration to online service, also patients can also set themselves up for online services via the NHS app - this method DOES NOT require the patient to call the practice to set up online access.

The 3 types of vouching are:

Vouching by Information Held - Preferred option as during the pandemic there is an aim to reduce footfall in GP practices.

Asking the patient a few predefined questions which could be a mixture of demographics and medical information, and when this matches the ID can be verified. This can be carried out over the telephone and with consent from the patient can have their online details either emailed or posted to them.

Examples of questions;

Practice approved medical record vouching questions;

- patient name, DOB and address

and successful response to one or two of the following medical record questions

- confirm one of their repeat prescription medications
- last time they visited the practice for an appointment
- last time they ordered their medication
- confirm a recorded problem they may have on their record.

Self -Vouching – when a member of staff knows the person presenting is the patient taking into consideration;

- the period of time an individual has been known to the person designated for vouching
- the frequency of attendance
- the period of registration
- this could also be a clinician during their appointment.

Provision of ID – this requires patient to physically attend the practice which during the current climate could be a barrier to patients registering to order their medication online – also practices are trying to reduce footfall.

Identity verification follows legal, professional and ethical standards. The name of the person verifying an applicant's identity, the method used and date should be recorded in the patient's records

Ordering Apps

Once patients have being set up for online services the CCG would strongly advise practices to signpost patients to the NHS app to order their medications as this is integrated with all GP practice systems. Any requests for repeat medications will land directly into the practice's workflow – and will not generate an email request. There are prescription ordering apps that are available to patients that are not integrated and will generate email/fax requests for patients repeat medication. We have been made aware of instances where requests are being sent to unmanned generic email inboxes. Patients can still nominate the pharmacy of their choice when using the NHS app to order their medication.

NHS App - Preferred option

This method can be used by patients who have a smart device such as a smart phone, iPad or tablet. Patients can download the app on apple and android devices. A copy of the patient ID such as driving licence or passport is imported via photo and then their identity verified using image scanning. Patients then link in to their GP service and use their nominated pharmacy.

Wound Care Update

ONPOS

ONPOS is an online wound care ordering service which will be piloted by four areas in Barnsley. The areas are Penistone, Dodworth, Victoria Medical Centre and the Tissue Viability team. By using the ONPOS system we will no longer require FP10 prescription for dressings however creams, appliances and SRC products can still be prescribed on FP10. The district nurses will access dressings directly from a cupboard stock. This will assist with formulary compliance, reduction of waste and providing more effective care for patients by helping to reduce delays with supplying of items.

This system will be managed by Liz Lock, Wound Care Nurse. Any queries please contact Liz (elizabeth.lock3@nhs.net).

Practice Nurse Training offer

Many of the Practice Nurses across Barnsley have been asking for further training in wound care. The MMT are now offering online modules for Practice Nurses to complete followed by virtual training sessions in all things wound care. Our first virtual Training session is to be held on the **Thursday 5th November 2020 13.00-15:30**. All practices are welcome to attend this training. Please contact Liz Lock if you interested in attending (elizabeth.lock3@nhs.net).



European Antibiotic Awareness Day: 18th November

The European Antibiotic Awareness Day is an annual European public health initiative that takes place on 18th November to raise awareness about the threat to public health of antibiotic resistance and the importance of prudent antibiotic use. The latest data confirms that across the European Union the number of patients infected by resistant bacteria is increasing and that antibiotic resistance is a major threat to public health. Prudent use of antibiotics can help stop resistant bacteria from developing and help keep antibiotics effective for the use of future generations.

More information can be found on the following link:

<https://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

Support to Community Pharmacies

As part of the CCG's continued effort to support community pharmacies, a brief weekly check-in call will continue to see how community pharmacists and their teams are managing through these challenging times and how they are managing through the current flu season with vaccinations. 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 them to our attention, where 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

Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Prescribing Guidelines

The **Primary care prescribing guidelines: advisory, minimum and gold and Community pharmacy key dispensing guidelines** have been updated:

<https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/prescribing-guidelines/gold-guidelines-for-prescribing-and-dispensing-apc-approved/115851>

Shared Care Guidelines

The **Dalteparin Shared Care Guideline for use in the Treatment and Prophylaxis of Venous Thromboembolism (NON PREGNANT patients)** has been updated:

https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/shared-care-guidelines/Dalteparin%20Shared%20Care%20Guideline%20NON-PREGNANT_2020.pdf

The classification of dalteparin **in pregnancy** has been changed from amber to **amber-G** and a separate **amber-G guideline (Dalteparin Amber-G Guideline for use in the Treatment and Prophylaxis of Venous Thromboembolism IN PREGNANCY)** has been developed:

https://best.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/clinical-support/medicines/shared-care-guidelines/Dalteparin%20Amber-G%20Guideline%20PREGNANCY_2020.pdf

Flu vaccination programme update

Thank you to all GP practices and community pharmacies who are delivering the flu vaccination programme. The current priority is to vaccinate patients in the existing eligible groups which does not currently include patients aged 50-64 who do not fall within another at risk group. The vaccine should only be offered to 50-64-year olds later in the season when NHS England confirms that the programme has been extended.

The DHSC has procured additional vaccines and issued guidance for GP practices on how these can be accessed. The DHSC stock should only be used when all local stock has been used and/or committed to booked appointments. DHSC stock is **not** to be used for temporary shortages e.g. until the next delivery is received. Community pharmacy guidance is due to be issued shortly.

The accurate and timely recording of vaccines given by another provider is essential in ensuring that GP clinical records remain up to date and in supporting accurate data collection to monitor uptake. The SYB ICS Flu Board has produced a number of user guides to support with the reporting and recording of vaccines administered by other providers and these were circulated with the primary care bulletin on the 19th October.

The Medicines Management Team is continuing to liaise with and support providers who are delivering the programme and any queries or issues can be directed to gemma.crew@nhs.net or deborah.cooke@nhs.net.

Lithium carbonate (Priadel®) 200mg and 400mg modified release tablets – Supply Disruption Update – Reversed Decision to Discontinue

Essential Pharma has informed the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) of its decision to reverse the discontinuation of Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets from the UK market with immediate effect, whilst facilitating pricing discussions.

As such the discontinuation notice issued to DHSC earlier this year has been withdrawn. In light of this, clinicians across all healthcare settings are advised that there is no longer a need to implement system wide switching of patients from Priadel® tablets to an alternative lithium carbonate preparation until further notice.

Essential Pharma has confirmed supplies of Priadel® 200mg and 400mg tablets are sufficient to meet current UK demand and is working to ensure further stocks are available to maintain supply after April 2021.

All patients who require lithium treatment should now continue to be managed in line with usual clinical practice underpinned by the relevant NICE guidance. Full details can be found by viewing the alert using the following link:

<https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewAndAcknowledgment/viewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103103>

MHRA Safety Updates

The latest MHRA safety updates are available to view online.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/920770/Sept-2020-DSU-PDF.pdf

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

Opioids: risk of dependence and addiction

New recommendations following a review of the risks of dependence and addiction associated with prolonged use of opioid medicines (opioids) for non-cancer pain. Before prescribing opioids, discuss with the patient the risks and features of tolerance, dependence, and addiction, and agree together a treatment strategy and plan for end of treatment.

Transdermal fentanyl patches for non-cancer pain: do not use in opioid-naive patients

Following a review of the risks associated with use of opioid medicines for non-cancer pain, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) has recommended that fentanyl transdermal patches are contraindicated in opioid-naive patients in the UK

Methotrexate once-weekly for autoimmune diseases: new measures to reduce risk of fatal overdose due to inadvertent daily instead of weekly dosing

In autoimmune conditions and some cancer therapies, methotrexate should be taken only once a week; however, we continue to receive reports of inadvertent overdose due to more frequent dosing (including daily administration). New measures have been implemented to prompt healthcare professionals to record the day of the week for intake and to remind patients of the dosing schedule and the risks of overdose.

Patient card and educational materials

Oral methotrexate products with indications requiring once-weekly dosing will come with a [patient card](#) (July 2020), which will prompt patients to take methotrexate once a week and to record the day of the week for intake. It will also help patients to identify the signs and symptoms of overdose.

Instruct patients to carry the card with them in their purse or wallet and to use it to alert any healthcare professionals they consult who are not familiar with their methotrexate treatment about their once-weekly dosing schedule (for example, on hospital admission, change of care). [Educational materials](#) (July 2020) for healthcare professionals will also be made available for oral products with indications requiring once-weekly dosing. These materials should be used in conjunction with local guidance materials if available

Insulins (all types): risk of cutaneous amyloidosis at injection site

Cutaneous amyloidosis at the injection site has been reported in patients using insulin and this may affect glycaemic control. Remind patients to rotate injection sites within the same body region.

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