

Our Ref: DC/NB

7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

To: Prescribing Clinicians and Pharmacists within the Barnsley locality

Dear Colleague

**Re: Summary of Key Points from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee Meetings on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

The main outcomes of the meeting were: -

### **Prescribing Guidelines**

#### **Insulin Therapy in Type 2 Diabetes [UPDATED]**

This guideline has received a routine update, the main changes include:

- Insulin regimes: suggested insulin regimes section updated with further options for therapy choices.
- Insulin combination therapy section:
  - Updated in line with GLP-1 Amber-G guidance.
  - DPP4 and insulin combination added.
- Insulin therapy induction advice section added.
- Updates to insulin passport section and insulin summary table section in line with the formulary.

The Committee endorsed the guideline subject to a minor amendment and the guideline will be made available on the BEST website in due course.

### **Amber G / Shared Care Guidelines**

**GLP-1 agonists: Liraglutide (Victoza®) Lixisenatide (Lyxumia®) Dulaglutide (Trulicity®) Semaglutide (Ozempic®) injection and Rybelsus® oral tablets) Amber G guideline.**

This amber-G guideline has received an interim update to the short supply information section in line with the most recent Medicines Supply Notification (MSN) issued in March 2024. The updated Amber-G guideline will be available on the BEST website in due course.

### **Other**

#### **Osteoporosis Management in Primary Care - Summarised Pathway**

There have been some minor changes to this pathway, including stating that calcium and vitamin D must be in the normal range when a DEXA scan is requested.

The guideline is available on the BEST website: [Osteoporosis Management in Primary Care - Summarised Pathway \(APC Approved\) Prescribing guideline](#)

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](mailto:BarnsleyAPCReport@nhs.net).

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

### **Barnsley Formulary Updates**

The Committee noted the traffic light classifications recently assigned by the South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) and the following formulary positions were agreed by the Committee:

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Formulary Indication</b>	<b><u>Barnsley Formulary</u> status (including traffic light classification)</b>
<b>IMOC Horizon Scanning May 2024</b>		
Diphtheria + tetanus + pertussis vaccine	Active immunisation against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis in persons aged ≥4 years as a booster following primary immunisation. Also for passive protection against pertussis in early infancy following maternal immunisation during pregnancy.	Non-formulary grey  This combination is not currently in the <a href="#">Green Book</a>
Rezafungin	Treatment of adults with invasive candidiasis	Non-formulary red
Zilucoplan	Use as an add-on to standard therapy for the treatment of generalised myasthenia gravis in adults who are anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody positive	Non-formulary grey
<b>TLDL Sub - Group April 2024</b>		
Adrenaline 1 in 10000 dilute	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	Formulary green (previously formulary red)
Amphotericin (Fungizone®)	Fungizone should be administered primarily to patients with progressive, potentially fatal infections. Refer to <a href="#">SPC</a> for further information	Non-formulary red
Angiotensin II	Treatment of refractory hypotension in adults with septic or other distributive shock who remain hypotensive despite adequate volume restitution and application of catecholamines and other available vasopressor therapies	Non-formulary grey (previously non-formulary red)
Antimalarials	For treatment of malaria	Formulary red
Antimalarials	Prophylaxis against malaria	Non-formulary grey  Drugs for malaria prophylaxis are not prescribable on the NHS. Chloroquine is available to buy over the counter. Mefloquine and doxycycline are only available on private prescription.  <a href="#">NICE CKS Malaria prophylaxis</a>

Midazolam buccal solution for children (Buccolam®)	Treatment of prolonged, acute, convulsive seizures in infants, toddlers, children and adolescents.	Formulary amber (previously formulary amber-G)  <a href="#">Shared Care Guideline for the Management of Epilepsies in Children</a>  <a href="#">Supplementary Prescribing Information for Buccal Midazolam (Buccolam®)</a>
<b>Other</b>		
Sucralfate tablets (unlicensed)	Benign gastric ulceration, benign duodenal ulceration, chronic gastritis, prophylaxis of stress ulceration.	Formulary Amber-G  Sucralfate 1g/5ml oral suspension (sf) Amber-G guideline is currently being updated to include unlicensed sucralfate 1g tablets.  Sucralfate 1g/5ml oral suspension (sf) is £224.35 for 200ml (Drug Tariff May 2024).  Unlicensed tablets are £70.15 for 40 (Drug Tariff May 2024)

### **MHRA Drug Safety Update**

The April 2024 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:

<p><b>Finasteride: reminder of the risk of psychiatric side effects and of sexual side effects (which may persist after discontinuation of treatment)</b></p> <p>A patient alert card is being introduced for men taking finasteride to help raise awareness of the risk of psychiatric side effects and sexual dysfunction, including the potential for sexual dysfunction to persist after treatment has stopped. Healthcare professionals are reminded to monitor patients for both psychiatric and sexual side effects.</p> <p><b>Advice for healthcare professionals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finasteride <a href="#">has been associated</a> with depression, suicidal thoughts and sexual dysfunction</li> <li>• patients have reported that sexual dysfunction (including decreased libido and erectile dysfunction) has persisted even after treatment was stopped</li> <li>• before prescribing finasteride, ask patients if they have a history of depression or suicidal ideation</li> <li>• advise patients to stop finasteride 1mg (Propecia®) for male pattern hair loss immediately if they develop depression or suicidal thoughts and to contact their doctor as soon as possible</li> <li>• advise patients prescribed finasteride 5mg (Proscar®) for benign prostatic hyperplasia to consult their doctor for further medical advice as soon as possible if they develop depression or suicidal thoughts</li> <li>• monitor patients for psychiatric and sexual side effects</li> <li>• a patient card will be introduced in all finasteride packs, which will highlight the risk of sexual side effects and psychiatric side effects reported with finasteride to increase awareness among patients and prescribers</li> <li>• report suspected adverse drug reactions associated with finasteride via the <a href="#">Yellow Card scheme</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Advice for healthcare professionals to provide to patients, parents and carers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finasteride is a medicine that helps with the management of male pattern hair loss (androgenic alopecia; 1 milligram (mg) formulation) and benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of the prostate (benign prostatic hyperplasia; 5mg formulation)</li> </ul>
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- finasteride has been associated with depressed mood, depression, suicidal thoughts and sexual dysfunction (including decreased sex drive and erectile dysfunction)
- in some cases sexual dysfunction has persisted in patients even after they have stopped taking finasteride
- before taking finasteride, inform your doctor if you have any personal history of depression or suicidal thoughts
- stop finasteride 1mg (Propecia®) immediately if you develop depression or suicidal thoughts and contact your doctor as soon as possible
- if you are prescribed finasteride 5mg (Proscar®) and you develop depression or suicidal thoughts, you should contact your doctor for further medical advice as soon as possible
- if you experience any problems with sexual function such as inability to get and maintain an erection or decrease in sex drive, please discuss this with your prescriber or doctor
- you may not notice some changes in your mood and behaviour so it is very important to tell your friends and family that you are taking this medicine and that it can have effects on psychological well-being. Others may notice changes and help you quickly identify any symptoms that you need to talk to your doctor about
- always read the leaflet that is provided alongside your medicine, which contains information about taking finasteride and a full list of known possible side effects
- if you experience any side effects, please [report them to the Yellow Card scheme](#)

#### **Montelukast: Reminder of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions**

Healthcare professionals prescribing montelukast should be alert to the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions in all patients including children and adolescents. Reported neuropsychiatric reactions include sleep disorders, hallucinations, anxiety and depression, as well as changes in behaviour and mood. Healthcare professionals should advise patients and their caregivers to be alert to these risks and seek medical advice as soon as possible if neuropsychiatric reactions occur.

#### **Advice for healthcare professionals:**

- the warnings in the Patient Information Leaflet and Summary of Product Characteristics for all montelukast products in the UK have been strengthened and highlighted with a black box for greater emphasis
- be alert for neuropsychiatric reactions in patients taking montelukast; events have been reported in adults, adolescents, and children
- discontinue montelukast if patients experience new or worsening symptoms of neuropsychiatric reactions
- advise patients and their caregivers to carefully read the list of neuropsychiatric reactions in the Patient Information Leaflet and to seek medical advice immediately should they occur
- report suspected adverse drug reactions associated with montelukast on a [Yellow Card](#)

#### **Advice for healthcare professionals to provide to patients and caregivers:**

- infrequently, some patients may experience new or worsening changes in mood, sleep or behaviour such as nightmares, aggression, anxiety or thoughts about self-injury while using montelukast
- you should seek immediate medical attention if you or your child experiences these symptoms; your prescriber is best placed to advise you on stopping this medicine if needed
- it is very important to tell your friends and family that you are taking montelukast and that this medicine is associated with infrequent neuropsychiatric side effects. This is because you may not notice some changes in your mood, sleep and behaviour. Other people may notice changes or new symptoms that you need to talk to your prescriber about
- the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with all montelukast products now includes warnings and advice about these psychiatric side effects in a black box
- it is important to read the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with your medicine or your child's medicine

- talk to a healthcare professional if you or your child are experiencing any problems with the medicine patients, parents, and caregivers can report suspected adverse drug reactions to montelukast via the [Yellow Card scheme](#)

Regards



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