

Medicines Management Newsletter

October 2021

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) 2021-22

Over the next few months, we are focusing on areas where prescribing is no longer routinely recommended or where self-care may be suitable in line with local and national guidance.

Bath additives & Shower emollients: 100% of patients to be reviewed and stopped where appropriate. Bath additives & shower emollients are no longer recommended for routine prescribing, leave on emollients to be used as soap substitute and emollient moisturiser in line with [APC position statement](#).

Vitamin D: The practice will review adult patients prescribed vitamin D in line with local and/or national self-care guidance and make changes in line with the recommendations in the guidance. 100% of appropriate patients to be reviewed and offered self-care advice where appropriate in line with the guidance. Guidance on the management of [low vitamin D level in adults](#) is available on the BEST website.

Mild to moderate hayfever/seasonal rhinitis: The practice will review patients prescribed hayfever medicines included within local and/or national self-care guidance and make changes in line with the recommendations in the guidance. 100% of appropriate patients to be reviewed and offered self-care advice where appropriate in line with the guidance. Includes tablets, liquids, nasal sprays and eye drops.

Gaviscon Advance®: Patients prescribed Gaviscon Advance® oral suspension for indigestion and heartburn should be reviewed in line with the national and local self-care guidance to determine whether it is appropriate to continue prescribing an over-the-counter indigestion and heartburn preparation on the NHS. Acidex Advance® is a cost-effective formulary alternative where an NHS prescription is still required.

Contacting the Medicines Management Dietitian

Please be aware that from 25th October 2021 our Dietitian, Justin Ward, will only be working for the Medicines Management team for 8 hours per week.

Justin currently supports the team and practices with a number of different queries and will continue to do so wherever possible. Please note that **any queries from the 25th October 2021 should be sent via email only** rather than by practice task.

If the query is urgent, please specify 'URGENT' in the subject field as this will allow Justin to prioritise the emails.

Contact Details

Email: justin.ward@nhs.net

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/1023578/Oct-2021-DSU-PDF.pdf

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

Chloral hydrate, cloral betaine (Welldorm®): restriction of paediatric indication

The paediatric indication for chloral hydrate (for children aged 2 years and older) and cloral (previously chloral) betaine (children aged 12 years and older) has been restricted to short term treatment (maximum 2 weeks) of severe insomnia only when the child or adolescent has a suspected or definite neurodevelopmental disorder and when the insomnia is interfering with normal daily life. Chloral hydrate and cloral betaine should only be used when other therapies (behavioural and pharmacological) have failed.

MedSafetyWeek November 2021: support the safety of vaccines

The sixth annual #MedSafetyWeek social media campaign will take place on 1 to 7 November 2021. This year's theme is on the importance of reporting suspected adverse reactions to vaccines.

Show your support by sharing MHRA material on social media, as well as discussing with colleagues and patients how reporting using the Yellow Card scheme helps to improve the safety of vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines: updates for October 2021

Recent information relating to COVID-19 vaccines and medicines that has been published since the September 2021 issue of Drug Safety Update, up to 1 October 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 [regulatory updates](#) on the COVID-19 booster vaccine programme for winter 2021 to 2022
- updated the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and Sections 5 and 6 of the [Patient Information Leaflet](#) for COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen. For more information on COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen, see the [Decision](#) page
- approved the [extension of the shelf life](#) of the COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer/BioNTech from the current 6 months to 9 months

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

Flu vaccination programme 2021-22

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. Guidance on the recording of the administration of the vaccine to eligible patients who are not registered at the practice has now been published <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/B0993-i-letter-vaccination-of-frontline-pc-health-care-workers-and-available-funding.pdf>

[National guidance](#) on accessing centrally supplied flu vaccines was published earlier this month. Supplementary local guidance providing further information on the process for ordering central stock will be circulated by the SYB team shortly.

The National Flu Programme call and recall started earlier this month for children age 2 and 3 years and letters, texts and emails will be sent to the parents/guardians of unvaccinated children age 2 and 3 years. This is in addition to local call and recall arrangements.

Information on which community pharmacies are providing the flu vaccine service this year is available on the [BEST website](#). 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 fortnightly basis to enable the information to remain as up to date as possible.

The 2021-22 flu immunisation eLearning programme can be accessed on the [Health Education England e-LFH website](#).

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.

Discharge Medication Service

If a pharmacy needs to query any discrepancies as part of the Discharge Medication Service, could you please Cc the respective clinical pharmacist within the GP practice.

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:

- Shoab Ashfaq, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – s.ashfaq@nhs.net
- Mir Khan, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – mir.khan1@nhs.net
- Shauna Kemp, Primary Care Network Technician – shauna.kemp@nhs.net

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 Officer on email address claire.taylor18@nhs.net

Many Thanks