

# Medicines Management Newsletter

## June 2021

Welcome to the June 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

The Medicines Optimisation Scheme will again form part of the Practice Delivery Agreement with monthly reports to be submitted by each practice to ensure all areas are completed on time. The scheme builds on the work undertaken by practices in previous years, as well as adding in some new areas which have been identified to encourage high quality, cost-effective prescribing.

Practices will be working on areas including:

- **Items which should no longer be routinely prescribed: Self-care medicines and drugs of limited clinical value:** Consider and implement local & national guidance.
- **Respiratory:** COPD patients to be reviewed and considered for change to triple inhaler therapy where appropriate in line with the [COPD algorithm](#), SABA use to continue to be reviewed in asthma & COPD patients and high dose use of ICS in asthma patients to be reviewed.
- **Targeted medication reviews:** Clinical Pharmacists to review patients prescribed selected medication, which is not in line with formulary guidance, is not cost effective or where patients are prescribed 25 or more medications (polypharmacy reviews).
- **High Dose Opioid Prescribing:** Practices should be continuing to complete a pain management review at least every 6 months for patients prescribed more than 120mg/day of oral morphine or equivalent.
- **ScriptSwitch:** Utilising ScriptSwitch to achieve high quality, cost effective prescribing and reviewing reports to identify patients who may require a review of their drug treatment.
- **Overactive bladder (OAB):** Selected cohort of patients to be reviewed to ensure that prescribing is in line with local and national guidance and that a treatment break has been considered and offered where clinically appropriate.

**Practices will be required to complete ALL areas in the scheme and meet ALL the deadlines to ensure they achieve their award.**

The Medicines Management Team working in your practice will be meeting with you shortly to discuss a work plan to support your practice to complete the required work and criteria set by the scheme.

The CCG Medicines Management Team is happy to support practices to review prescribing in these and other areas, however please note that the overall responsibility for completion of the work within the scheme lies entirely with the practice.

**Any queries can be sent to the Medicines Management Team via email address [Barnsleyccg.mosreporting@nhs.net](mailto:Barnsleyccg.mosreporting@nhs.net) or by calling the team on 01226 433798.**

## Updates from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

### **Prescribing Guidelines**

The following prescribing guidelines have been approved and can be accessed on the BEST website at the following links:

[Protocols for initiating FreeStyle Libre 2® for glucose monitoring in ADULTS and CHILDREN and GP contracts/agreements \[UPDATED\]](#)

The FreeStyle Libre® protocols and GP practice contracts have been updated to make reference to FreeStyle Libre 2® and to clarify the process when switching a patient from FreeStyle Libre 1® to FreeStyle Libre 2®.

In line with NHS England guidance, patients with type 1 diabetes or insulin treated type 2 diabetes, who are living with a learning disability and recorded on their GP practice learning disability register, have been added to the selection criteria for FreeStyle Libre®.

[Guidance for the use of Diltiazem 2% cream/ointment in the management of anal fissures \[UPDATED\]](#)

[Anti-emetics in primary care guidelines \[UPDATED\]](#)

### **Shared Care Guidelines**

The following amber-G/ shared care guidelines have been approved and can be accessed on the BEST website at the following links:

[The use of DOACs \(Direct Oral Anticoagulants\) for the treatment and prevention of DVT and PE Amber-G guideline \[UPDATED\]](#)

The monitoring section within this amber-G guideline has been updated in line with the monitoring of DOACs within the Anticoagulation for Stroke Prevention in Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation: Joint primary and secondary care guidance, as agreed by the Committee.

[Camouflage cream Amber-G guideline \[UPDATED\]](#)

[Prucalopride Shared Care Guideline \[UPDATED\]](#)

## **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:

- Shoab Ashfaq, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist - [s.ashfaq@nhs.net](mailto:s.ashfaq@nhs.net)
- Mir Khan, Primary Care Network Clinical Pharmacist – [mir.khan1@nhs.net](mailto:mir.khan1@nhs.net)
- Danny Speight, Medicines Management Technician - [daniel.speight1@nhs.net](mailto:daniel.speight1@nhs.net)

## Contacting the Medicines Management Dietitian

The Medicines Management Dietitian is available via email (preferred) or telephone for nutrition-related prescribing queries.

Please **avoid** sending a 'Task' unless there is an accompanying email/phone call alerting the Dietitian to the 'Task'.

Without a prompt, 'Tasks' may go weeks/months before being seen.

### Contact Details

Email: [justin.ward@nhs.net](mailto:justin.ward@nhs.net)

Mobile: 0790 840 1859

Typical working hours: Mon - Fri 08:00 - 16:00

## MHRA Safety Updates

The latest MHRA safety update is available to view online.

### May 2021 Volume 14: Issue 10

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/987707/May-2021-DSU-PDF.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987707/May-2021-DSU-PDF.pdf)

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

### Levothyroxine: new prescribing advice for patients who experience symptoms on switching between different levothyroxine products

If a patient reports persistent symptoms when switching between different levothyroxine tablet formulations, consider consistently prescribing a specific product known to be well tolerated by the patient. If support is required, the Medicines Management Team can provide advice on how to prescribe a specific generic product on the practice system. If symptoms or poor control of thyroid function persist (despite adhering to a specific product), consider prescribing levothyroxine in an oral solution formulation.

### COVID-19 vaccines: updates for May 2021

A summary of advice recently issued by the MHRA relating to coronavirus (COVID-19), up to 13 May 2021.

Here we include a summary of key MHRA advice issued up to 13 May 2021 and since the publication of the April 2021 edition of Drug Safety Update.

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 take every report of a suspected adverse reaction seriously and encourage everyone to report through the [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#)

We have also recently:

- [published a statement following the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's new advice on COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca for people aged under 40](#)

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

We previously included a summary of latest advice in the [January 2021](#), [February 2021](#), [March 2021](#) and [April 2021](#) issues of Drug Safety Update.

**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](mailto:claire.taylor18@nhs.net)**

**Many Thanks**