Medicines Management newsletter

Issue 3 September 2017

NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group

Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

BLACK ELTROMBOPAG film-coated tablets (revolade®) for acquired severe aplastic anaemia (saa)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not recommend the prescribing of ELTROMBOPAG tablets (Revolade®) for Acquired Severe Aplastic Anaemia (SAA).

BLACK CONJUGATED OESTROGENS and BAZEDOXIFENE ACETATE tablets (Duavive®)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not recommend the prescribing of CONJUGATED OESTROGENS and BAZEDOXIFENE 0.45mg/20mg modified release tablets (Duavive®)for the treatment of oestrogen deficiency in postmenopausal women with a uterus.

BLACK RASBURICASE powder and solvent for concentrate for solution for infusion (Fasturtec®▼)for severe, refractory, tophaceous gout

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not recommend the prescribing of Rasburicase powder and solvent for concentrate for solution for infusion (Fasturtec® ▼)for the "off label" treatment of severe, refractory, tophaceous gout resistant to xanthine oxidase inhibitors (allopurinol and febuxostat)and uricosuric agents (benzbromarone)or for whom these drugs are contraindicated.

BLACK THYROID EXTRACTS, DESICCATED

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not recommend the prescribing of DESICCATED THYROID EXTRACTS, e.g. Armour Thyroid, in the management of hypothyroidism.

GREY ELUXADOLINE film-coated tablets (Truberzi®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of ELUXADOLINE film-coated tablets (Truberzi® ▼) for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhoea (IBS-D).

GREY TOFACITINIB film-coated tablets (Xeljanz®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of TOFACITINIB film-coated tablets (Xeljanz® ▼) for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

GREY INSULIN GLARGINE + LIXISENATIDE solution for injection (Suliqua®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of INSULIN GLARGINE + LIXISENATIDE solution for injection (Suliqua® ▼)for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

RED IXEKIZUMAB Solution For Injection (Taltz®▼) For Plaque Psoriasis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of IXEKIZUMAB solution for injection (Taltz® ▼) in specialist settings only, for treating plaque psoriasis in accordance with NICE TA442.

RED RITUXIMAB infusion in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of rituximab infusion for rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with NICE TA195 and in accordance with the Mersey Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Pathway. Treatment should be initiated and supervised by a rheumatologist.

RED USTEKINUMAB injection (Stelara®) for Psoriatic Arthritis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of USTEKINUMAB injection (Stelara®) for active psoriatic arthritis in accordance with NICE TA340.

RED CERTOLIZUMAB PEGOL and SECUKINUMAB (Cimzia® and Cosentyx®▼ in Psoriatic Arthritis)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of CERTOLIZUMAB PEGOL (Cimzia®)and SECUKINUMAB (Cosentyx® ▼), by specialists only, for psoriatic arthritis in accordance with NICE TA445.

AMBER OPICAPONE capsules (Ongentys®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of OPICAPONE (Ongentys® ▼) following specialist recommendation as add-on therapy in adult patients with Parkinson's disease.

AMBER RIVAROXABAN 2.5mg tablets (Xarelto®▼) for Acute Coronary Syndrome

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of Rivaroxaban 2.5mg tablets (Xarelto® ▼) following specialist initiation for preventing adverse outcomes after acute management of acute coronary syndrome in accordance with NICE TA335.

AMBER SAFINAMIDE tablets (Xadago®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of SAFINAMIDE (Xadago® ▼) following specialist recommendation in the management of mid to late stage Parkinson's disease.

GREEN CALCIPOTRIOL and BETAMETHASONE cutaneous foam (Enstilar®)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of CALCIPOTRIOL 50 micrograms and BETAMETHASONE 500 micrograms per 1 gram cutaneous foam (Enstilar®)for psoriasis vulgaris in adults.

GUIDELINES

Dry eye symptoms, non-specialist management

Issued: June 2017 | Review: June 2020

Malnutrition, managing adults in the community

Issued: June 2017 | Review: June 2020

Biological agents pathway for Psoriatic Arthritis and Peripheral Spondyloarthropathy

Issued: June 2017 | Review: June 2020

Biological agents policy for Psoriatic Arthritis

Issued: June 2017 | Review: June 2020

SAFETY

Transdermal Opioid Analgesic Patches

Ensuring safety when using fentanyl and buprenorphine patches.

Hot Topic - Patient Led Ordering in NHS Halton CCG

The changes to the ordering of repeat prescriptions which mean that pharmacies will no longer be able to order on behalf of patients has now started in Runcorn practices, as of **Monday 4th September**. The go-live date for Widnes practices is **Monday 13th November 2017** and patients are being informed of the changes via individual patient letters sent out 6 weeks prior to the go-live date.

Patients (or their carer, nominated family member/friend) will need to order their repeat prescriptions via their GP practice as, post go live, practices will no longer accept repeat prescription orders from pharmacies unless the patient has been exempted from the changes by their practice.

Patients can order prescriptions from their GP practice via:

- **Patient Access Online** -. Patients will need to register for this with their GP practice by presenting two forms of identification, including photo ID. Practices can help patients who are not already registered to set this up. Once registered, patients can order their medication via the Patient Access website and the Mobile App.

- **Dropping off or posting the tick slip**

Patient leaflets **'Changes to ordering repeat prescriptions from your GP practice – Understanding what this could mean to you'** are available that explain what is happening and why, and who to contact to get more help understanding the changes. These leaflets, posters and prescription bag flyers have been distributed to practices and pharmacies across Runcorn and will be distributed across Widnes in the coming weeks. For further supplies of these please contact the NHS Halton CCG Medicines Management Team (MMT).

The MMT is working with GP practices and pharmacies to identify any vulnerable patients that maybe at risk from these changes and we welcome your feedback on individual patients that you think should be excluded.

The MMT would like to thank practices and pharmacies for their support in ensuring that these changes are implemented in as safe a manner as possible with minimal disruption to patients.

Controlled Drugs – Reminder re: Reporting Incidents for Cheshire and Merseyside

In April 2017 the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer for Cheshire and Merseyside sent a communication out to all organisations that prescribe, dispense, hold or administer controlled drugs in Cheshire and Merseyside regarding reporting of incidents.

From 1st May 2017 NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside) have implemented a web-based system to help make the reporting of concerns /incidents relating to Controlled Drugs much simpler and standardised and will comply with the "Shipman Inquiry recommendations". NHS and private organisations will now record incidents via the website and these are immediately received by the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer (CDAO).

All reporters of controlled drug concerns /incidents will need to register on the website www.cdreporting.co.uk There are easy to follow videos on the website to show you how to register and report incidents, occurrences and declarations.

If you have any problems please contact the CDAO for Cheshire and Merseyside via england.cmcd@nhs.net

Safety

Trimethoprim and Methotrexate: never co-prescribe

The BNF states that there is an increased risk of haematological toxicity when methotrexate is given with trimethoprim (also with co-trimoxazole).

Trimethoprim and Methotrexate: never co-prescribe

Educational Risk Minimisation Materials for Clexane (enoxaparin sodium)

"Dear Healthcare Professional" letter notes that enoxaparin is expressed both in international units (IU) of anti-Xa activity and in milligrams (mg)

Educational Risk Minimisation Materials for Clexane (enoxaparin sodium)

E-Cigarettes and Refill Containers (E-Liquids): Report Suspected Side Effects and Safety Concerns

Members of the public and health care professionals can use the yellow card scheme website to report any suspected side effects or safety concerns with e-cigarettes or e-liquids used for vaping.

https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcards/tobaccoreportmediator/

Brimonidine Gel (Mirvaso): Risk of Systemic Cardiovascular Effects; Not To Be Applied to Damaged Skin

Brimonidine (Mirvaso) is a topical gel indicated for the symptomatic treatment of facial erythema of rosacea in adults. It is an α-2 adrenergic agonist and is classed as AMBER Initiated on Pan Mersey formulary. http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/recommendations/documents/PS48.pdf?UNLID=681042288201763093112

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- cases of bradycardia, hypotension (including orthostatic hypotension), and dizziness after application of brimonidine gel have been reported, some of which required hospitalisation

- some cases were associated with application of brimonidine gel after laser procedures to the skin, which possibly caused increased absorption of the gel
- warn patients not to apply brimonidine gel to irritated or damaged skin, including after laser therapy to the skin

https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/brimonidine-gel-mirvaso-risk-of-systemic-cardiovascular-effects-not-to-be-applied-to-damaged-skin

Denosumab (Prolia, Xgeva ▼): reports of osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal

Denosumab is a human monoclonal IgG2 antibody. Denosumab 60 mg solution for injection (Prolia) is indicated for the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and in men at increased risk of fractures, and for the treatment of bone loss associated with hormone ablation in men with prostate cancer at increased risk of fractures. This is classed as AMBER initiated on Pan Mersey formulary.
http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/prescribing_support/documents/PSI4.pdf?UNLID=681042288201763093218

Denosumab 120 mg solution for injection (Xgeva ▼) is indicated for the prevention of skeletal-related events (pathological fracture, radiation to bone, spinal cord compression, or surgery to bone) in adults with bone metastases from solid tumours, and for the treatment of adults and skeletally mature adolescents with giant cell tumour of bone that is unresectable or where surgical resection is likely to result in severe morbidity. This is RED on Pan Mersey formulary.

Denosumab is associated with a risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw; osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal has also been reported with denosumab.

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- the possibility of osteonecrosis of the external auditory canal should be considered in patients receiving denosumab who present with ear symptoms including chronic ear infections or in those with suspected cholesteatoma
- possible risk factors include steroid use and chemotherapy, with or without local risk factors such as infection or trauma
- advise patients to report any ear pain, discharge from the ear, or an ear infection during denosumab treatment
- report cases of osteonecrosis of any bone suspected to be associated with denosumab or any other medicine via the Yellow card scheme

https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/denosumab-prolia-xgeva-reports-of-osteonecrosis-of-the-external-auditory-canal

Nystatin dose change

Confusion has arisen recently about the dose of nystatin as a result of different dosage recommendations in the respective SPCs. The SPC for Nystan® was updated in 2015 to recommend a higher dose for children over 2 years old and adults*, whilst the one for generic nystatin wasn't.

Following discussions with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the British National Formulary (BNF) has updated the dosage recommendations for nystatin suspension for the treatment of oral candidiasis, to reflect the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for **GENERIC** nystatin products.

Previous BNF dosage recommendations for nystatin were in line with those in the SPC for Nystan® Oral Suspension.

The BNF dosage recommendation has reverted back to the lower dose (in the generic SPC), and is as follows:

Oral candidiasis - by mouth
Child
100 000 units 4 times a day usually for 7 days, and continued for 48 hours after lesions have resolved.

Adult
100 000 units 4 times a day usually for 7 days, and continued for 48 hours after lesions have resolved.

https://www.bnf.org/news/2017/03/09/update-to-nystatin-dose-in-bnf-and-bnf-for-children/

https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnf/current/PHP7390-nystatin.htm?q=Nystatin&t=search&ss=text&tot=36&p=6#_hit

Hepatitis B Shortage

Following a global shortage of hepatitis B vaccine, Public Health England have developed temporary recommendations to support clinicians to ensure that stock is available for those individuals at highest and most immediate risk of exposure.

https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=102631

Liraglutide 6mg/ml solution for injection – Different Brands Available

Victoza® brand of liraglutide 6mg/ml solution is licensed for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in adults and is GREEN, AMBER RETAINED or GREY on the Pan Mersey formulary depending on the way it is used.

Saxenda® brand of liraglutide 6mg/ml solution is licensed for weight management and used at a higher dose. Saxenda® is a new formulation of liraglutide and currently has a **GREY** rag rating under Pan Mersey, hence is not suitable for prescribing in any care setting until fully evaluated.

http://formulary.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=6&SubSectionRef=06.01.02.03&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=3237#3237

http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/recommendations/documents/PS197.pdf?UNLID=913565412017721103312

Brands are not interchangeable.

Victoza® is not licensed for obesity/weight management and is not interchangeable with Saxenda® brand

Saxenda® is not licensed for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and is not interchangeable with Victoza® brand

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