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Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

GREY FreeStyle Libre[®] FLASH GLUCOSE MONITOR

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of flash glucose monitor (FreeStyle Libre[®]) for glucose monitoring.

- The flash glucose monitor (FreeStyle Libre[®]) has now been included in the Drug Tariff and is available on NHS prescription subject to local health economy approval.
- Until a Pan Mersey health economy decision on its use has been made, **prescribing is not recommended**.
- A full assessment of the evidence is currently being completed by the Formulary and Guidelines Subgroup.

GREY LEVONORGESTREL 19.5 mg intrauterine delivery system (Kyleena[®])

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of the levonorgestrel 19.5 mg intrauterine delivery system (Kyleena[®]) for contraception.

GREY BECLOMETASONE/FORMOTEROL/GLYCOPYRROLONIUM inhaler (Trimbow[®] ▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee **does not** currently recommend the prescribing of BECLOMETASONE/FORMOTEROL/GLYCOPYRROLONIUM inhaler (Trimbow[®] ▼) for the maintenance treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

GREY NALTREXONE/BUPRIOPION prolonged-release tablets (Mysimba[®] ▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of NALTREXONE/BUPRIOPION prolonged-release tablets (Mysimba[®] ▼) for weight management.

GREY ABATACEPT infusion and subcutaneous injection (Orencia[®]) for Psoriatic Arthritis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of ABATACEPT infusion and subcutaneous injection for the treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis.

GREY BRODALUMAB solution for injection (Kyntheum[®] ▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of BRODALUMAB solution for injection (Kyntheum[®] ▼) for the treatment of psoriasis.

GREY SARILUMAB solution for injection (Kevzara®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of SARILUMAB solution for injection (Kevzara®▼) for the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis.

GREEN ORAL BISPHOSPHONATES for treating osteoporosis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of ORAL BISPHOSPHONATES (alendronic acid, ibandronic acid and risedronate sodium) for treating osteoporosis in accordance with NICE TA464.

NALMEFENE film coated tablets (Selincro®▼)

AMBER Recommended for NHS Halton CCG

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of NALMEFENE (Selincro®▼) within its marketing authorisation, as an option for reducing alcohol consumption in adults with alcohol dependence, in line with NICE TA325.

AMBER AZITHROMYCIN oral liquid and tablets - paediatric use

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of azithromycin following specialist initiation for certain chronic airway conditions in children.

AMBER ELUXADOLINE tablets (Truberzi®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of ELUXADOLINE Tablets (Truberzi®▼) following specialist initiation for irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhoea in adults in accordance with NICE TA471.

AMBER ROFLUMILAST tablets (Daxas®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of ROFLUMILAST tablets (Daxas®▼) following specialist recommendation as an add-on to bronchodilator therapy, for treating severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults with chronic bronchitis (in accordance with NICE TA461)

AMBER RIFAXIMIN 550mg tablets (Targaxan®) The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of RIFAXIMIN 550mg tablets (Targaxan®) following specialist initiation, as an option for reducing the recurrence of overt hepatic encephalopathy in people aged 18 years or older in accordance with NICE TA 337.

RED BARICITINIB film-coated tablets (Olumiant®▼)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of BARICITINIB film-coated tablets (Olumiant®▼), by specialists only, for rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with NICE TA466.

RED INTRAVENOUS BISPHOSPHONATES for treating osteoporosis

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of INTRAVENOUS BISPHOSPHONATES (ibandronic acid and zoledronic acid), by specialists only, for treating osteoporosis in accordance with NICE TA464.

RED COLLAGENASE CLOSTRIDIUM HISTOLYTICUM injection (Xiapex®) for Dupuytren's contracture

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of COLLAGENASE CLOSTRIDIUM HISTOLYTICUM injection (Xiapex®), by hand surgeons only, for the treatment of Dupuytren's contracture with a palpable cord in adults in accordance with NICE TA459.

RED DEXAMETHASONE intravitreal implant (Ozurdex®)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of DEXAMETHASONE intravitreal implant (Ozurdex®), by ophthalmologists only, for treating non-infectious uveitis in accordance with NICE TA460.

RED DIMETHYL FUMARATE tablets (Skilarence®)

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of DIMETHYL FUMARATE Tablets (Skilarence®), by specialists only, for severe plaque psoriasis in accordance with NICE TA475

RED RANIBIZUMAB intravitreal injection (Lucentis®) for choroidal neovascularisation

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of RANIBIZUMAB intravitreal injection (Lucentis®), by ophthalmologists only, for the treatment of visual impairment secondary to choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) in conditions not covered by NICE technology appraisals.

RED USTEKINUMAB injection (Stelara®) for Crohn's disease

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of USTEKINUMAB injection (Stelara®), by gastroenterologists only, for moderately to severely active Crohn's disease after previous treatment and in accordance with TA456.

GUIDELINES

Glyceryl Trinitrate Transdermal Patch For Children

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Inflammatory monoarthritis or oligoarthritis

Biological agents pathway

Issued: July 2017 | Review: June 2020.

Biological agents policy

Issued: July 2017 | Review: June 2020.

APC Policies

Policy for the Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee

Issued: July 2017 | Review: July 2019

Application and Case for Introduction of New Medicine Service Development

Issued: July 2017

Request for Amendments to Existing Formulary Choice or a Medicine Switch

Issued: July 2017

SHARED CARE

Riluzole

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

DMARDS

Azathioprine

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Ciclosporin

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Leflunomide

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Mercaptopurine

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Methotrexate

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Mycophenolate mofetil

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Penicillamine

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Sodium aurothiomalate

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Sulfasalazine

Issued: September 2017 | Review: September 2020

Hot Topic - NHS Urgent Medicine Supply Advanced Service (NUMSAS)

A new community pharmacy enhanced service NUMSAS (NHS Urgent Medicine Supply Advanced Service) was launched on 22nd August 2017. This service is commissioned by NHS England.

How it works:

- NHS 111 receive a call from a patient who has run out of regular medication
- NHS 111 refer the patient to a list of pharmacies providing the NUMSAS service
- Refer to an agreed pharmacy from that list (may be out of area)
- Patient presents at pharmacy and has a consultation with the pharmacist and they will decide whether to supply.
- This is an NHS service so if exempt then patients don't pay for the supply (In contrast to the usual Pharmacy Emergency Supply requests which is a non-NHS service and patients can be charged the cost of the medicine)
- There are some exemptions to this service and not all drugs can be supplied via this route due to legal restrictions.
- Pharmacies are reimbursed the cost of the drugs supplied as well as remunerated for providing the service. There is no need for GP practices to supply an FP10 to cover the supply for any medication issued via the NUMSAS service.

The pharmacies that are currently signed up in Halton are:

- Murdishaw Pharmacy
- Upton Rocks Pharmacy
- Strachans Chemist in Widnes

For more information please see <http://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/nhs-urgent-medicine-supply-advanced-service-numsas-faqs/>

National Consultation Gabapentin and Pregabalin

On 13th November the Government launched a consultation on proposals to schedule pregabalin and gabapentin under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. This will run for 10 weeks until 22nd January. The consultation is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pregabalin-and-gabapentin-proposal-to-schedule-under-the-misuse-of-drugs-regulations-2001>

There are three options included in this consultation:

- 1) Control pregabalin and gabapentin as Class C Drugs under the 1971 Act and place both in Schedule 3 to the 2001 Regulations, applying the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973 (the 1973 Regulations).
- 2) Control pregabalin and gabapentin as Class C Drugs under the 1971 Act and place both in Schedule 3 to the 2001 Regulations (but exclude the application of safe custody requirements),
- 3) Control pregabalin and gabapentin as Class C Drugs under the 1971 Act and place both in Part 1 of Schedule 4 to the 2001 Regulations.

Option 1 is the recommended option of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

Safety

Vaccination and Immunocompromised Patients

Shingles vaccine is contraindicated in immunosuppressed post-transplant patients. Zostavax is a live, attenuated varicella-zoster vaccine and administration may result in disseminated disease in individuals who are immunosuppressed or immunodeficient. Refer to the summary of product characteristics for a complete list of contraindications, special warnings and precautions for use.

<http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/25927>

Important safety information for people with diabetes using NovoPen® Echo® or NovoPen® 5

The insulin cartridge holder used in some batches of NovoPen Echo and NovoPen 5 may crack or break if exposed to certain chemicals (e.g. household cleaning agents). Patients should check their device and contact the manufacturer for replacement if it belongs to an affected batch.

<http://offlinehbpl.hbpl.co.uk/NewsAttachments/2MM/170705-Important-safety-information-for-people-with-diabetes-using-NovoPen-Echo-or-NovoPen-5.pdf>

Glucose content of Lucozade Energy drinks reduced by 50% from April 2017

People with diabetes who consume Lucozade Energy Original for the treatment of hypoglycaemia should be advised to check the label of any product purchased to ensure that they are aware of the correct quantity to consume.

<http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/en/Medicines-Awareness/Safety-Alerts/Safety-alerts/Glucose-content-of-Lucozade-Energy-drinks-to-be-reduced-by-50-from-April-2017/>

Adrenaline auto-injectors - Updated advice after European review

It is recommended that 2 adrenaline auto-injectors are prescribed, which patients should carry at all times. Patients and their carers should be trained to use the particular auto-injector that they have been prescribed as technique varies between injectors.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/adrenaline-auto-injectors-updated-advice-after-european-review>

Corticosteroids: rare risk of central serous chorioretinopathy with local as well as systemic administration

It has recently been reported that retinal disorder Central serous chorioretinopathy has been associated with local administration of corticosteroids (inhaled, intranasal, epidural, intra-articular, topical dermal, periorcular routes) as well as systemic use of corticosteroids.

- Healthcare professionals should advise patients to report any signs of blurred vision. Consider referral to an ophthalmologist for evaluation of possible causes if a patient presents with vision problems and report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/corticosteroids-rare-risk-of-central-serous-chorioretinopathy-with-local-as-well-as-systemic-administration>

Loperamide (Imodium): reports of serious cardiac adverse reactions with high doses of loperamide associated with abuse or misuse

Advice for Healthcare Professionals:

- Serious cardiovascular events (such as QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, and cardiac arrest), including fatalities, have been reported in association with large overdoses of loperamide
- Healthcare professionals are reminded that if symptoms of overdose occur, naloxone can be given as an antidote
- Since the duration of action of loperamide is longer than that of naloxone (1–3 hours), repeated treatment with naloxone might be indicated; patients should be monitored closely for at least 48 hours to detect possible CNS depression
- As for all medicines, pharmacists should remind patients not to take more than the recommended dose on the label

Report all suspected adverse reactions, including those associated with abuse or misuse, to the [Yellow Card Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/loperamide-imodium-reports-of-serious-cardiac-adverse-reactions-with-high-doses-of-loperamide-associated-with-abuse-or-misuse)
<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/loperamide-imodium-reports-of-serious-cardiac-adverse-reactions-with-high-doses-of-loperamide-associated-with-abuse-or-misuse>

Miconazole (Daktarin): over-the-counter oral gel contraindicated in patients taking warfarin

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- bleeding events, some with fatal outcome, have been reported with use of miconazole oral gel by patients on warfarin
- patients taking warfarin should not use over-the-counter miconazole oral gel available from pharmacies
- if the concomitant use of miconazole oral gel with an oral anticoagulant such as warfarin is planned, exercise caution and ensure that you monitor and titrate the anticoagulant effect carefully
- advise patients taking prescription-only miconazole oral gel and warfarin that if they experience signs of over-anticoagulation, such as sudden unexplained bruising, nosebleeds, or blood in urine, they should stop using miconazole and seek immediate medical attention

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/miconazole-daktarin-over-the-counter-oral-gel-contraindicated-in-patients-taking-warfarin>

Clozapine: reminder of potentially fatal risk of intestinal obstruction, faecal impaction, and paralytic ileus

Advice to healthcare professionals:

- the antipsychotic drug clozapine has been associated with varying degrees of impairment of intestinal peristalsis; this effect can range from constipation, which is very common, to very rare intestinal obstruction, faecal impaction, and paralytic ileus
- exercise particular care in patients receiving other drugs known to cause constipation (especially those with anticholinergic properties), patients with a history of colonic disease or lower abdominal surgery, and in patients aged 60 years and older
- clozapine is contraindicated in patients with paralytic ileus
- advise patients to report constipation immediately
- actively treat any constipation that occurs

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/clozapine-reminder-of-potentially-fatal-risk-of-intestinal-obstruction-faecal-impaction-and-paralytic-ileus>

Isotretinoin (Roaccutane): rare reports of erectile dysfunction and decreased libido

Advice to healthcare professionals:

- be aware of reports of sexual side effects, including erectile dysfunction and decreased libido, in patients taking oral isotretinoin, indicated for severe acne
- the exact incidence of these adverse reactions is unknown but considering the number of patients in the UK taking the medicine, reports are understood to be rare

Report any suspected adverse reactions to isotretinoin or other medicines on a [Yellow Card](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/isotretinoin-roaccutane-rare-reports-of-erectile-dysfunction-and-decreased-libido>

Gabapentin (Neurontin): risk of severe respiratory depression

Gabapentin has been associated with a rare risk of severe respiratory depression even without concomitant opioid medicines. Healthcare Professionals are advised to consider whether dose adjustments might be necessary in patients at higher risk of respiratory depression, including elderly people, patients with compromised respiratory function, respiratory or neurological disease, or renal impairment, and patients taking other CNS depressants.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/gabapentin-neurontin-risk-of-severe-respiratory-depression>

Methylprednisolone injectable medicine containing lactose (Solu-Medrone 40 mg): do not use in patients with cows' milk allergy

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- Solu-Medrone 40 mg uses lactose produced from cows' milk as an excipient and may contain trace amounts of milk proteins; other strengths of Solu-Medrone do not contain lactose
- serious allergic reactions have been reported in patients allergic to cows' milk proteins

- do not use injectable methylprednisolone medicines that contain lactose in patients with a known or suspected allergy to cows' milk
- if a patient's symptoms worsen or any new allergic symptoms occur, allergic reaction to cows' milk proteins should be suspected; stop administration of the product and treat the patient's condition accordingly

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/methylprednisolone-injectable-medicine-containing-lactose-solus-medrone-40-mg-do-not-use-in-patients-with-cows-milk-allergy>

The Safer Management of Controlled Drugs

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) published their latest Annual Report in July 2017. Within this report they made three key recommendations. The third recommendation is particularly relevant to primary care prescribers: "We encourage all controlled drug prescribers to regularly review the clinical needs of their patients, to ensure that the prescribed drugs and length of treatment continues to be the most appropriate for their condition, to reduce opportunities for over prescribing and diversion."

http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20170718_controlleddrugs2016_report.pdf

Improved BNF and BNFC app launched

NICE has [announced](#) the availability of an improved BNF and BNFC App for mobile devices.

The new App combines the BNF and BNFC in a single application and provides enhanced search and interaction checking as well as making updates easier. The existing apps will no longer be updated and will be withdrawn later this year. The new app is available as follows:

- [BNF - Android](#)
- [BNF - iOS](#)

Action: Current users of the Apps should transition to the new App as soon as possible to ensure continued access to the most up to date information.

Antimicrobial Stewardship and Resistance

European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) is a public health initiative aimed at encouraging responsible use of antibiotics held on 18th November every year. In 2017, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) took place from 13 to 19 November.

Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) raises awareness of antibiotic resistance amongst the general public and encourages greater trust in doctors' advice when it comes to whether consumers need antibiotics or not. On 23rd October 2017 PHE launched a national campaign 'Keep Antibiotics Working' across England to support the government's efforts to reduce inappropriate prescriptions for antibiotics by raising awareness of the issue of antibiotic resistance and reducing demand from the public using TV, radio and social media.

Treating Your Infection Leaflet : This is a leaflet for health professionals working in primary care to use when providing advice to patients. The leaflet provides practical advice on how to treat symptoms of common self-limiting

infections and warning signs for serious illness. The CCG has a supply of printed copies of this leaflet, if you would like some then please contact your Medicines Management Team member.

TARGET Antibiotic Toolkit : What is TARGET? TARGET stands for: Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools. The toolkit helps influence prescribers' and patients' personal attitudes, social norms and perceived barriers to optimal antibiotic prescribing. It includes a range of resources that can each be used to support prescribers' and patients' responsible antibiotic use, helping to fulfil CPD and revalidation requirements.

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/TARGETantibiotics>



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