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## Area Prescribing Committee

### RECOMMENDATIONS, FORMULARY AND GUIDELINES

#### **RED DAPAGLIFLOZIN tablets (Forxiga®) WITH INSULIN for the treatment of type 1 diabetes**

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of DAPAGLIFLOZIN tablets (Forxiga®) WITH INSULIN, for the treatment of type 1 diabetes mellitus in accordance with NICE TA597.

#### **RED BOTULINUM NEUROTOXIN TYPE A injection (Xeomin®) for chronic sialorrhoea**

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of BOTULINUM NEUROTOXIN TYPE A injection (Xeomin®) for the treatment of chronic sialorrhoea, in accordance with NICE TA605.

#### **GREY USTEKINUMAB solution for injection (Stelara®) for ulcerative colitis**

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of USTEKINUMAB solution for injection (Stelara®) for the treatment of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

#### **GREEN BIPHOSPHONATES, oral for treating osteoporosis**

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

#### **AMBER INITIATED SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN film-coated tablets (Entresto® ▼)**

The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee recommends the prescribing of SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN film-coated tablets (Entresto® ▼) for treating symptomatic chronic heart failure following specialist initiation and in accordance with NICE TA388.

#### **AMBER INITIATED Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) (previously known as NOACs) for the treatment and prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and/or Pulmonary Embolism (PE)**

DOACs are recommended as an option for treating and/or preventing recurrent DVT and/or PE where an oral anticoagulant is indicated following specialist initiation.

#### **GREEN Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) (previously known as NOACs) in Non Valvular Atrial Fibrillation: a multiple prescribing statement for Apixaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban and Rivaroxaban**

DOACs are recommended as treatment options for the prevention of stroke and systemic emboli in non-valvular atrial fibrillation where an oral anticoagulant is indicated.

## **GREEN** Beclometasone inhalers (Kelhale® and Soprabec®)

Addition of less expensive equivalents to Qvar® and Clenil® brands.

## **GREEN** CALCIPOTRIOL 50 micrograms and BETAMETHASONE 500 micrograms per 1 gram cutaneous foam (Enstilar®) for psoriasis vulgaris in adults

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**

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### **AMBER RETAINED** AZITHROMYCIN oral liquid and tablets – paediatric use

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

## **SAFETY**

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### **Insulin Comparison and Identification Guide**

Update to existing document.

## **Medicines Management Work Plan 2019/20**

During **January 2020** the NHS Halton CCG Medicines Management Team will be doing the following pieces of work:

- **CCG Medicines Management Pharmacists** will:
  - Continue to focus on medication reviews for patients living with frailty and at risks of falls, prioritising patients most at risk.
  - Switch patients on generic mesalazine and Asacol® to Octasa® as agreed with local trusts.
- **Practice Medicine Co-ordinator (PMC) Reviews** – The PMCs will be doing the following reviews:
  - High Risk Drug Monitoring ADHD Drugs - audit of adults and children prescribed ADHD drugs to check that the recommended monitoring has been completed.
  - Brand to Generic Switches - brand to generic switches highlighted on quarterly national report
  - Desogestrel Switch – Switch of generic desogestrel and Cerazette® tablets to Zelleta® or Cerazette® to generic desogestrel dependant on practice decision.
  - Bath and Shower Emollients – Discontinuation of bath and shower emollients in Adults in line with Pan Mersey and national recommendations.
  - Blood Glucose Testing Strips (BGTS) Reviews:
    - Discontinuation of BGTS in diet only and metformin alone Type 2 diabetics in line with NICE recommendations.
    - Identifying Type 2 diabetics who aren't on cost effective formulary choice BGTS for review for switch to formulary meters.
    - Review of prescribed quantities of BGTS used alongside Freestyle Libre® for potential reduction in appropriate patients.



Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has updated the current Bridgewater wound care formulary following discussions with the CCG Medicines Management Team and the Medicines Management Working Group. The formulary was approved by Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust Medicines Management Operational Group in October 2019.

There are two different formularies, each with an order form to enable the product to be requested by a non-prescriber.

- **General Wound Care Formulary A and order form**

This Formulary includes wound care products that can be prescribed or recommended by clinical staff competent to undertake wound assessment.

- **Authorisation required Wound Care Formulary B and order form**

This formulary includes wound care products that can only be recommended or supplied following recommendation by a Team Leader or Senior Podiatrist experienced in wound management or a Tissue Viability Specialist Nurse.

There is also a guide to wound care product that contains further information on the types of dressings.

[Wound Care Formulary Procedure](#) [Wound Care Formulary A Order form](#) [Wound Care Formulary B Order Form](#)

### Important notes for prescribers:

- All requests to a prescriber must be made on a wound care order form with all sections of the form completed.
- If forms are incomplete or contain hand-written amendments, the product should not be issued and should be queried with the requestor.
- Repeat requests require a new order form to be completed.
- The request should be for the minimum quantity required, and no more than 14 days' supply.

If a clinically appropriate wound care product is not listed on Wound Care Formulary A or B, a **Form C** must be completed and authorised by a Tissue Viability Specialist Nurse prior to prescribing. Requests for a new episode of treatment require a further Form C to be completed.

### [Non Formulary Form C](#)

The new formulary and order forms are now in use across Halton.



## Safety

### INGENOL MEBUTATE GEL (PICATO ▼): INCREASED INCIDENCE OF SKIN TUMOURS SEEN IN SOME CLINICAL STUDIES

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Ingenol mebutate gel is indicated for the cutaneous treatment of non-hyperkeratotic, non-hypertrophic actinic keratosis in adults and is rag rated green on Pan Mersey formulary.

#### Advice for healthcare professionals:

- Several clinical studies have shown an increased incidence of benign and malignant skin tumours in patients using ingenol mebutate gel when compared to those using a vehicle only or an alternative treatment.

- Advice patients using ingenol mebutate gel to be vigilant for the development of any new skin lesions within the treatment area and to seek medical advice immediately should any occur.
- Use with caution in patients with a history of skin cancer.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/ingenol-mebutate-gel-picato-increased-incidence-of-skin-tumours-seen-in-some-clinical-studies>

## PRESCRIBING MEDICINES IN RENAL IMPAIRMENT: USING THE APPROPRIATE ESTIMATE OF RENAL FUNCTION TO AVOID THE RISK OF ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and creatinine clearance (CrCl) are two estimates of renal function available to prescribers. Clinical laboratories routinely report renal function in adults based on eGFR normalised to a body surface area of 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>. For most drugs and most situations, eGFR is an acceptable estimate of renal function. However, eGFR can overestimate renal function compared with CrCl in some patient groups or clinical situations. This overestimation can result in patients receiving higher than recommended doses of their medicine in relation to their renal function.



### Advice for healthcare professionals:

- For most drugs and for most adult patients of average build and height, estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) should be used to determine dosage adjustments.
- Creatinine clearance (CrCl) should be calculated using the Cockcroft-Gault formula (see below) to determine dosage adjustments for:
  - Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs).
  - Patients taking nephrotoxic drugs (examples include vancomycin and amphotericin B).
  - Elderly patients (aged 75 years and older).
  - Patients at extremes of muscle mass (BMI <18 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or >40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
  - Patients taking medicines that are largely renally excreted and have a narrow therapeutic index, such as digoxin and sotalol.
- When dose adjustment based on CrCl is important and no advice is provided in the relevant BNF monograph, consult the Summary of Product Characteristics.
- Reassess renal function and drug dosing in situations where eGFR and/or CrCl change rapidly, such as in patients with acute kidney injury (AKI).

### Further information and resources

- [BNF guidance on prescribing in renal impairment.](#)
- [Specialist Pharmacy Service - Direct Acting Oral Anticoagulants \(DOACs\) in Renal Impairment: Practice Guide to Dosing Issues \[July 2019\].](#)
- [MDCALC Creatinine Clearance \(Cockcroft-Gault Equation\) Calculator.](#)
- [The Renal Association: About eGFR.](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/prescribing-medicines-in-renal-impairment-using-the-appropriate-estimate-of-renal-function-to-avoid-the-risk-of-adverse-drug-reactions>

## ALDER HEY: PATIENT INFORMATION REGARDING RANITIDINE SHORTAGE

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Alder Hey has issued information for parents/carers regarding the current ranitidine shortage:

<https://www.alderhey.nhs.uk/contact-us/press-office/latest-news/message-parents-and-carers-re-ranitidine>

## SANTEN EYE DROP PRODUCTS: RISK OF MEDICATION ERROR IN TRANSITION TO NEW BOTTLES

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Santen, manufacturer of Cosopt, Trusopt, Timoptol and Timoptol LA eye drops have sent communication to Healthcare professionals to the introduction of new bottles for these products, between August 2019 and February 2020.

Patients should be advised that administration instructions have changed for their products which can be found in the product information leaflet that accompanies the drops.

Community pharmacists are encouraged to ensure patients are suitably counselled regarding the change in bottle.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d8343d5ed915d5257b5b6bf/Santen-bottle-DHPC-MHRA\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d8343d5ed915d5257b5b6bf/Santen-bottle-DHPC-MHRA_FINAL.pdf)

## DRUG TREATMENT REQUIRING EFFECTIVE CONTRACEPTION

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A drug safety supplement has been produced by Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit which provides advice on drug treatment that requires effective contraception.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/6b8bbb568e69b68ea1ed46773/files/cc633c2e-8af7-4a13-8e2c-c8ba04b480b0/drugs\\_requiring\\_contraception.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/6b8bbb568e69b68ea1ed46773/files/cc633c2e-8af7-4a13-8e2c-c8ba04b480b0/drugs_requiring_contraception.pdf)



## Antimicrobial Update: December 2019

### THE 'KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING' CAMPAIGN

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**\*Please visit the [Halton CCG website](#) for the latest Cheshire and Merseyside AMR bulletin: October Issue now available!\***

The 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign is designed to support the government's efforts to help us to reduce inappropriate prescriptions for antibiotics by:

- Explaining the risks of antibiotic resistance (AMR) to the public
- Raising awareness of the issue
- Reducing patient's expectations for antibiotics

In September 2019 all community pharmacies were sent out 'Keep Antibiotics Working' resource packs from PHE to help promote antimicrobial awareness to patients prior to official relaunch of the campaign in November 2019.

In October 2019 NHS Halton CCG Medicines Management Team ran a competition across community pharmacies in Halton, to find the pharmacy that had been most innovative and successful in engaging the public with the 'Keep Antibiotics Working' campaign. After careful consideration, we selected two overall winners.

The successful pharmacies were Upton Rocks pharmacy in Widnes who created an eye catching display comprising of a giant box of amoxicillin capsules, and Boots Hallwood pharmacy in Runcorn who were able to evidence a robust

system of providing written and verbal advice to patients prescribed antibiotics. Each of our winners received a luxury hamper, kindly donated by Rivendell Garden Centre in Widnes. **Congratulations!!!**



**Upton Rocks Pharmacy**



**Boots Hallwood**

All GP practices should by now have received packs of resources directly from PHE as part of their 'Help Us Help You' mandated campaigns, containing both 'Help Us Help You' and 'Keep Antibiotics Working' resources. Practices should contact PHE if they have not received these resources: [Partnerships@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Partnerships@phe.gov.uk)

In addition to the resources that are sent to the practices, there are more available at:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/58-keep-antibiotics-working/resources>

\*\*\* A Reindeer challenge first person to email Nathan with the correct number of Reindeer in the newsletter will win the challenge and a selection box \*\*\*



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