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Future Meeting Dates 2019-20

Prescribing Leads Meeting:

- **Tuesday 7th Jan-20 NEW**
- Thursday 26th Mar-20

**Designed for attendance by prescribing professionals ONLY, e.g. GPs, Nurse, Pharmacist*

Practice Admin Forum:

- Thursday 23rd Jan 2020
- Thursday 19th Mar 2020

**Designed for attendance by Practice administrative staff who deal with prescription processes, e.g. Prescription Clerks, Receptionists, General Admin*

Sharps Boxes / Medical needles

Swale Council offer a collection and replacement service. Please advise patients:

Contact their customer service team via email or phone to request a collection of their sharps box. Swale Council will arrange a day to collect and can also supply/deliver a new sharps box if required.

Email: csc@swale.gov.uk
Telephone: 01795 417850

NB: Needles and syringes should never, under any circumstances be placed into household rubbish bins or recycling collection bags.

Current Medicines Optimisation Team Projects

Medication Optimisation Clinical reviews:

- Vitamin B12, Ticagrelor, Infant Formula, Gluten Free, ACE, ARBs, ONS, Liothyronine, Freestyle Libre, Dual Antiplatelets
- Patient medication reviews in Care Homes
- Reviewing medication for MS patients

Other projects include:

- Emollient prescribing review, to support current local guidance
- Review of appropriate Melatonin prescribing
- Identify high-risk medication on eRD
- Drugs of limited value - Lidocaine patches, Eflornithine cream, Vitamin B compound tablets
- Cost effective switches – Needles, Brands to Generics

SLaM Telephone Helpline Update – Time Change

If there are any concerns regarding adult ADHD patient management the GP should contact SLaM via the telephone helpline for advice.

Telephone: 07712 390425
(Friday 1.15-1.45pm) **CHANGE OF TIME**

Caring for Children with Coughs Poster

The University of Bristol have produced a website and patient information leaflet to help support parents caring for children with coughs. For more detail see, www.bristol.ac.uk/child-cough

The leaflet contains information about how to look after a child who has a cough (not due to asthma). The leaflet can be here.

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/primaryhealthcare/documents/target/caring-for-children-with-cough-A4-leaflet.pdf>

Medway MFT Medicines Queries

Should you have any medication queries from Medway NHS Foundation Trust, either outpatient or input discharge summaries, you can email these queries to,

medwayft.medsqueries@nhs.net

Stock Issues

Please see the link below for The DHSC regular monthly supply update for October 2019. It will also be emailed out with this newsletter.

<https://www.prescgipp.info/our-resources/data-and-analysis/strategic-activity-reports/out-of-stock-bulletins-and-intelligence/>

Please note that this resource must not be shared on public websites.

The survey monkey link below can be used to record any issues you are having locally with stocks and supply.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pqstockfeedback>

Slo-phyllin[®]

Slo-phyllin[®] (Theophylline) has been discontinued. It is anticipated that the item will be out of stock dates from the end of November 2019. Limited stock is available to order directly from Merck's customer services, if unavailable from wholesalers. Prescribers will need to review and switch all affected patients who still require theophylline, from Slophyllin[®] to alternative preparations. More information on this will be sent out with this newsletter.

Stericlens sodium chloride 0.9% irrigation solution aerosol spray

We have been informed that Stericlens is currently out of stock and will not be available until late Jan-20.

The nearest alternative is Irriclens sodium chloride 0.9% irrigation solution aerosol spray.

Xaggitin XL Tablets[®]

We have been informed that a number of Pharmacies in Swale have been reporting out of stock issues with all strengths of Xaggitin XL Tablets. The Medicines Optimisation Team can confirm this is not the case. All three main pharmacies wholesalers (AAH, Alliance and Phoenix) have adequate stocks and the products representative has also confirmed that there has been no issue with stocks. Please can either pharmacies or surgeries get in touch with the Medicines team should they have any further issues with Xaggitin XL Tablets.

Abtard MR Tablets[®]

We have also been informed that some people are reporting out of stock issues with all strengths of Abtard MR Tablets. The Medicines Optimisation Team can confirm this is not the case. The manufacturer has confirmed that there are no issues. Please can either pharmacies or surgeries get in touch with the Medicines team should they have any further issues with Abtard MR Tablets.

Glucophage 1g MR Tablets[®]

We would like to advise you that Glucophage 1g MR Tablets are currently out of stock. Stock is expected to be available again in January 2020. In the interim, we would advise for a one off acute prescription to be generated for generic Metformin 1g MR Tablets. If you have any questions regarding this, please get in touch with The Medicines Team.

Festive Greetings

The Medicines Optimisation Team would like to thank you all for the hard work and engagement in 2019 and we wish you all our best wishes for festive holidays and a magnificent New Year.

Should you have any medicines queries over the holiday time, please drop as an email on swccg.medicine@nhs.net or call 03000 425103.

Oseltamvir (Tamiflu®)

Public Health England has confirmed that due to a rising number of cases of influenza, it is now possible to prescribe Oseltamvir (Tamiflu®) for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza in at risk patients. Tamiflu® is available in 30mg, 45mg and 75mg capsules, and 6mg/ml suspension.

Treatment should be started within 48 hours of onset of symptoms.

At risk patients are defined as those:

- With neurological, hepatic, renal, pulmonary and chronic cardiac disease
- With Diabetes Mellitus
- With severe immunosuppression
- Aged over 65 years
- Pregnancy (and 2 weeks post-partum)
- Under 6 months of age
- Morbid obesity (BMI >40)

Treatment: *Dose alterations are required for impaired renal function. Check SPC.*

Treatment	Premature (<36 weeks post conceptional age)	0-12 months	Child 10-15kg	Child 15-23kg	Child 24-40kg	Child and adult >40kg
Oseltamvir orally for 5 days	1mg/kg bd <i>unlicensed</i>	3mg/kg bd	30mg bd	45mg bd	60mg bd	75mg bd

Prophylaxis: *Dose alterations are required for impaired renal function. Check SPC.*

Prophylactic treatment	Child 10-15kg	Child 15-23kg	Child 23-40kg	Child and adult >40kg
Oseltamvir orally for 10 days	30mg od	45mg od	60mg od	75mg od

Drug Safety Updates – Oct 2019

Ranitidine Pharmacy Level Recalls

There has been a number of pharmacy-level recalls for ranitidine-containing products as a precautionary measure due to possible contamination with N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), an impurity which has genotoxic and carcinogenic potential.

This impurity was also detected in sartan medicines, leading to their recall earlier this year. This is an ongoing issue and the MHRA is actively involved with the European Medicines Agency and with other medicines regulators. An investigation into other potentially impacted products is continuing and further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.

All class 2 recalls can be found [here](#)

Yellow fever vaccine: stronger precautions in people with weakened immunity and in those aged 60 years or older

The Commission on Human Medicines has issued a series of recommendations to strengthen measures to minimise risk with the yellow fever vaccine (Stamaril) following very rare fatal reactions.

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- Yellow fever vaccine is a highly effective vaccine to protect against life threatening yellow fever infection; however, strict adherence to contraindications and precautions is essential to reduce the risk of very rare but potentially fatal adverse reactions
- Following a review of the benefits and risks of the vaccine, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) has made recommendations to strengthen measures to minimise risk
- Key recommendations include new and updated contraindications, strengthened precautions for use in individuals aged 60 years and older, and standardised risk-benefit evaluation procedures across UK yellow fever vaccination centres to ensure that people only receive the vaccine after a thorough risk assessment
- A letter from MHRA, Public Health England, National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC), and Health Protection Scotland has been sent to UK yellow fever vaccination centres to inform them of the recommendations and that changes will be made to the product information and standardised pre-vaccination screening tools
- Only healthcare professionals specifically trained in benefit-risk evaluation of yellow fever vaccine should administer the vaccine, following their individualised assessment of a person's travel itinerary and suitability to receive the vaccine
- Every vaccine should be advised to seek emergency medical attention if they develop signs or symptoms of very rare neurotropic disease (YEL-AND) or viscerotropic disease (YEL-AVD) and should receive the manufacturer's patient information leaflet as part of the travel consultation

Updated Drug Prices for November 2019 – Due to Stock Shortages

Drug	Pack size	Concession Price	Previous Price	Price Increase	Possible alternative for top 10 items by cost
Dexamfetamine 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	500	£381.63	£114.49	£267.14	No alternative
Nifedipine 10mg capsules	90	£65.63	£7.30	£58.33	No alternative
Nifedipine 5mg capsules	90	£51.95	£5.75	£46.20	No alternative
Lamotrigine 25mg dispersible tablets sugar free	56	£18.20	£2.33	£15.87	Consider need for dispersible
Amiloride 5mg tablets	28	£19.50	£5.61	£13.89	No alternative
Cyclizine 50mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules	5	£12.56	£2.82	£9.74	Metoclopramide 10mg/2ml injection for new patients only, please refer to bnf for dosage
Trihexyphenidyl 2mg tablets	84	£13.50	£3.92	£9.58	No alternative
Irbesartan 300mg / Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5mg tablets	28	£11.44	£2.52	£8.92	Irbesartan 300mg tablets (still more cost effective even though it too has increased in price)
Tizanidine 2mg tablets	120	£12.83	£5.78	£7.05	No alternative
Desmopressin 200microgram tablets	30	£20.19	£13.48	£6.71	No alternative

Drug	Pack size	Concession Price	Previous Price	Price Increase
Alverine 60mg capsules	100	£9.25	£3.47	£5.78
Bumetanide 1mg tablets	28	£1.95	£1.57	£0.38
Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension	100ml	£1.95	£0.84	£1.11
Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension	100ml	£2.25	£1.40	£0.85
Co-careldopa 12.5mg/50mg tablets	90	£13.49	£8.77	£4.72
Co-careldopa 25mg/100mg tablets	100	£11.99	£11.60	£0.39
Diclofenac sodium 100mg MR tablets	28	£11.33	£5.95	£5.38
Frovatriptan 2.5mg tablets	6	£8.10	£5.14	£2.96
Hydroxyzine 10mg tablets	84	£2.53	£1.20	£1.33
Hydroxyzine 25mg tablets	28	£1.02	£0.62	£0.40
Indapamide 2.5mg tablets	28	£2.20	£1.08	£1.12
Indoramin 20mg tablets	60	£11.44	£8.61	£2.83
Irbesartan 75mg tablets	28	£3.44	£1.89	£1.55
Irbesartan 150mg tablets	28	£6.33	£3.54	£2.79
Irbesartan 300mg tablets	28	£6.93	£2.77	£4.16
Lamotrigine 100mg dispersible tablets sugar free	56	£9.99	£4.09	£5.90
Levetiracetam 250mg tablets	60	£5.88	£3.27	£2.61
Levetiracetam 500mg tablets	60	£10.53	£5.20	£5.33
Levetiracetam 1g tablets	60	£12.50	£8.10	£4.40
Meloxicam 7.5mg tablets	30	£1.91	£1.13	£0.78
Meloxicam 15mg tablets	30	£5.55	£1.77	£3.78
Memantine 10mg tablets	28	£3.30	£1.51	£1.79
Memantine 20mg tablets	28	£8.19	£2.02	£6.17
Mirtazapine 15mg tablets	28	£2.73	£1.59	£1.14
Mirtazapine 30mg tablets	28	£2.65	£1.24	£1.41
Mirtazapine 45mg tablets	28	£4.81	£1.50	£3.31
Mometasone 50micrograms/dose nasal spray	140	£3.76	£1.97	£1.79
Nefopam 30mg tablets	90	£7.99	£5.25	£2.74
Nifedipine 10mg modified-release tablets	56	£9.23	£7.34	£1.89
Nitrazepam 5mg tablets	28	£2.49	£0.97	£1.52
Nitrofurantoin 50mg tablets	28	£13.61	£8.57	£5.04
Nitrofurantoin 100mg tablets	28	£10.68	£7.87	£2.81
Nizatidine 150mg capsules	30	£7.99	£4.51	£3.48
Orlistat 120mg capsules	84	£28.49	£27.54	£0.95
Oxytetracycline 250mg tablets	28	£4.99	£0.95	£4.04
Pizotifen 1.5mg tablets	28	£8.21	£1.55	£6.66
Propranolol 10mg tablets	28	£2.00	£1.34	£0.66
Propranolol 40mg tablets	28	£2.00	£1.21	£0.79
Quetiapine 25mg tablets	60	£3.28	£2.20	£1.08
Quinine sulfate 300mg tablets	28	£5.90	£1.80	£4.10
Ranitidine 150mg tablets	60	£4.07	£1.65	£2.42
Ranitidine 300mg tablets	30	£3.85	£1.55	£2.30
Venlafaxine 75mg tablets	56	£4.96	£3.07	£1.89