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Future Meeting Dates 2019-20

Prescribing Leads Meeting:

- Thursday 26th Sept 2019
- Wednesday 11th Dec 2019
- Thursday 26th Mar 2020

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

Practice Admin Forums:

- Thursday 18th July 2019
- Thursday 19th September 2019
- Thursday 7th November 2019
- 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

Current Medicines Optimisation Team Projects

Medication Optimisation Clinical reviews including:

- NSAID reviews – Coxibs and Diclofenac only
- S.T.O.M.P (Medication reviews of pts with Learning Difficulties)
- Care Home patient medication reviews by Care Home Pharmacist

Other projects include:

- Review of patients using 'Antimuscarinics' for possible 'drug holiday' as long term use has detrimental side effects on mental health.
- Repatriation of specialist drugs of where prescribing should remain with the consultant.
- Highlight prescribing of Perindopril 'Arginine' and 'Dosulepin' which are drugs not advised by NHS England to be routinely prescribed in Primary Care.
- Review of Emollient prescribing to support current local guidance
- Preferred branded generic

Pharmacy Ordering FreeStyle Libre

You may have seen eligible patients will have been obtaining supplies of FreeStyle Libre on FP10 prescriptions from their GP's. To obtain this item please place your order via the following link.

<https://www.freestylelibrepharmacyportal.co.uk/>

Issuing of steroid treatment cards

Patients prescribed oral corticosteroids for a course of greater than 3 weeks in duration should be issued with a steroid treatment card by the prescriber. This also applies to those patients who have more than 4 short courses of oral corticosteroids in one year.

Prescribers also need to be aware that steroid cards are recommended for patients having regular high dose inhaled corticosteroids as per the following table:

Drug/Inhaler	Adult >12 years	Child 2-12 years	Child <2 years
Beclometasone:	<u>Total daily dose</u>	<u>Total daily dose</u>	<u>Total daily dose</u>
Clenil	>800mcg	>400mcg	ALL STRENGTHS
Qvar/Fostair	>400mcg	NOT LICENSED	NOT LICENSED
Budesonide:	<u>Total daily dose</u>	<u>Total daily dose</u>	<u>Total daily dose</u>
Pulmicort	>800mcg	>400mcg (6-11 years)	NOT LICENSED
Symbicort	200/6 AND 400/6	100/6 (age 6-12 years)	NOT LICENSED
Duosp Spiromax	160/4.5 AND 320/9	NOT LICENSED	NOT LICENSED
Fluticasone:	<u>Total daily dose</u>	<u>Total daily dose</u>	<u>Total daily dose</u>
Flixotide, Seretide, Flutiform	>400mcg	>200mcg (4-12 years)	NOT LICENSED
Relvar	184/22	NOT LICENSED	NOT LICENSED

Steroid cards can be purchased from the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) A link to the site can be found [here](#)

Managed Repeats

Please read carefully the information below for an update on the withdrawal of managed repeat process;

Phased Start – Please be reminded, it is expected that there will be a cross-over period of approximately two months to allow patients to make alternative arrangements and to agree (between prescriber and dispenser) necessary provisions for those vulnerable/high-risk patients. To assist patients with this transition please use leniency before refusing to request or issue medications during this changeover.

Patient Queries – We have been receiving numerous patient queries throughout the last week and aim to deal with these as quickly as possible. We have noticed that many of these queries could have been dealt with by referring to our patient leaflet or Q&A sheet – please can you ensure you have access to these patient resources when discussing changes with any patients. This is to ensure a consistent message is being provided and patients are not unnecessarily searching for information. Access to additional patient information can be obtained by contacting the Meds Opt Team.

Patient Leaflets – these have been distributed to all GP Practices and Pharmacies for patient use, please hand out as needed. If you require any further supplies please contact the Meds Opt Team.

Stock Issues

- Bezalip 200mg Tablets – Prescribe as generic Bezafibrate
- Doxazosin XL Tablets – Prescribe the standard release preparations
- EpiPen 300mcg – Limited to TWO injectors per prescription
- Adalat LA 20mg, 30mg and 60mg PR Tablets – Not expected to be available till 2021, supplies of other Nifedipine Capsules and Tablets remain available currently including, Adipine, Coracten, Nifedipress and Tensipine.
- Bumetanide 5mg Tablets – Prescribe either 1mg Tablets or 1mg/5ml Oral Solution
- Carbagen 200mg IR, 400mg IR, 200mg MR and 400mg MR Tablets - switched to Tegretol
- Labetolol Tablets and Metoprolol 50mg and 100mg Tablets
- Sinemet stock supplies have now been resolved, however the product now has a new appearance, see attached document.

OTC Vitamin B12

As per new B12 guidance, in many cases patients will be directed to buy Vitamin B12 OTC. The following table details availability and prices.

Brand	Strength and pack size	Dose	Cost	Cost per month	Other information
MyProtein	1000mcg x 60	1 od	£4.49	£2.25	Suitable for vegans. Higher dose, but will not cause harm
Holland and Barrett	100mcg x 100	1 od	£7.69	£2.15	2 for 1 offers are usually available.
Natures best	100mcg x 100	1 od	£4.99	£1.40	Available online
Boots	10mcg x 60	1 od	£3.09	£1.54	Dose is high enough for borderline deficiency
Superdrug	10mcg x 60	1 od	£2.79	£1.40	Dose is high enough for borderline deficiency

Farewell

Preety Ramdut will be leaving the Medicines Optimisation Team at the beginning of July and taking up the position of Head of Quality Primary and Local Care across both Swale and DGS Quality and Safety Team. We wish her ever success in her new role and she will be greatly missed.

Updated Drug Prices for June 2019 – Due to Stock Shortages

Drug	Pack size	Concession Price	Previous Price	Price Increase	Possible alternative for top 10 items by cost
Sevelamer 800mg tablets	180	£110.40	£31.52	£78.88	No alternative
Ibandronic Acid 50mg tablets	28	£55.00	£6.86	£48.14	No alternative
Tolbutamide 500mg tablets	28	£17.49	£3.74	£13.75	No alternative
Risedronate sodium 35mg tablets	4	£11.95	£0.77	£11.18	No alternative
Dosulepin 75mg tablets	28	£12.39	£1.31	£11.08	See Dosulepin audit
Montelukast 10mg tablets	28	£9.38	£1.17	£8.21	Cosider 2 x 5mg chewable (28 day supply £2.52)
Topiramate 100mg tablets	60	£21.10	£14.83	£6.27	Consider 2 x 50mg (28 day supply £18.66)
Amiloride 5mg tablets	28	£9.49	£3.29	£6.20	No alternative
Metoprolol 50mg tablets	28	£6.22	£1.17	£5.05	Half a 100mg tablet (56 day supply £1.17)
Nebivolol 2.5mg tablets	28	£16.62	£11.70	£4.92	Half a 5mg tablet (56 days supply £4.37)

Drug	Pack size	Concession Price	Previous Price	Price Increase
Betahistine 16mg tablets	84	£3.20	£1.64	£1.56
Betahistine 8mg tablets	84	£2.34	£1.16	£1.18
Bumetanide 1mg tablets	28	£1.65	£1.31	£0.34
Candesartan 32mg tablets	28	£2.03	£1.76	£0.27
Carvedilol 12.5mg tablets	28	£1.91	£0.89	£1.02
Carvedilol 25mg tablets	28	£2.50	£1.11	£1.39
Carvedilol 3.125mg tablets	28	£1.17	£0.91	£0.26
Celecoxib 100mg capsules	60	£3.29	£2.72	£0.57
Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops	10	£2.28	£1.55	£0.73
Citalopram 40mg/ml oral drops sugar free	15	£9.38	£5.21	£4.17
Co-careldopa 25mg/100mg tablets	100	£9.17	£9.02	£0.15
Diamorphine 10mg injection	5	£16.56	£14.39	£2.17
Diamorphine 30mg injection	5	£16.52	£15.05	£1.47
Escitalopram 10mg tablets	28	£5.50	£1.13	£4.37
Hydroxychloroquine 200mg tablets	60	£6.85	£3.70	£3.15
Irbesartan 150mg tablets	28	£3.20	£2.18	£1.02
Irbesartan 300mg tablets	28	£3.60	£2.77	£0.83
Losartan 100mg tablets	28	£3.05	£1.23	£1.82
Losartan 12.5mg tablets	28	£3.92	£3.09	£0.83
Naproxen 250mg gastro-resistant tablets	56	£9.95	£7.23	£2.72
Naproxen 250mg tablets	28	£3.76	£1.51	£2.25
Naproxen 500mg gastro-resistant tablets	56	£18.50	£14.10	£4.40
Nebivolol 5mg tablets	28	£5.28	£4.37	£0.91
Nortriptyline 10mg tablets	100	£4.98	£4.29	£0.69
Pantoprazole 20mg tablets gastro-resistant	28	£3.65	£0.90	£2.75
Pantoprazole 40mg tablets gastro-resistant	28	£5.76	£1.06	£4.70
Pramipexole 88microgram tablets	30	£4.89	£4.38	£0.51
Quetiapine 100mg tablets	60	£3.99	£3.46	£0.53
Quetiapine 200mg tablets	60	£9.70	£5.68	£4.02
Quetiapine 25mg tablets	60	£2.40	£1.70	£0.70
Sertraline 100mg tablets	28	£1.21	£1.08	£0.13
Sertraline 50mg tablets	28	£1.10	£0.82	£0.28
Telmisartan 20mg tablets	28	£2.63	£2.26	£0.37
Telmisartan 80mg tablets	28	£5.19	£5.17	£0.02
Tibolone 2.5mg tablets	28	£8.37	£7.66	£0.71
Topiramate 50mg tablets	60	£13.49	£9.33	£4.16