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### Future Meeting Dates 2019-20

#### Prescribing Leads Meeting:

- Wednesday 12th June 2019
- Thursday 26th Sept 201
- 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

### DVLA advice regards 'FreeStyle Libre

Drivers with insulin treated diabetes are advised to take the following precautions:

*"Always carry your glucose meter and blood glucose strips with you, even if you use a real time glucose monitoring system or flash glucose monitoring system".*

Drivers who use FreeStyle Libre, will still require glucose testing strips. However, we would recommend that a box of 50 should be issued on an acute prescription.

### Farewell

Nicola Kelly has moved to pastures new and has undertaken a 'Medicines Governance' role in General Practice. Nicola had been a member of our team since 2015 and she will be greatly missed. We wish her ever success in her new role.

### Current Medicines Optimisation Team Projects

#### **Medication Optimisation Clinical reviews including:**

- NSAID reviews – Coxibs and Diclofenac only
- Hydrochlorothiazide reviews – following MHRA alert
- Carbimazole reviews – following MHRA alert
- 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. Including patients with catheters
- Repatriation of specialist drugs of which 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 as there is little evidence to support continued prescribing.
- Review of Emollient prescribing to support current local guidance

#### **Current cost effective brand switches:**

Brand / Generic	Preferred Product
Buprenorphine Patch (5mcg, 10mcg, 15mcg, 20mcg)	Reletrans Patch (5mcg, 10mcg, 15mcg, 20mcg)
Buprenorphine Patch (35mcg, 52.5mcg, 70mcg)	Relevtec Patch (35mcg, 52.5mcg, 70mcg)
Fentanyl Patches (12mcg, 25mcg, 37.5mcg, 50mcg, 75mcg, 100mcg)	Mezolar Patches (12mcg, 25mcg, 37.5mcg, 50mcg, 75mcg, 100mcg)
Gaviscon Liquid or Tablets	Peptac Liquid
Metformin MR Tablets	Glucophage MR Tablets
Methylphenidate XL Tablets (18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg)	Xaggatin XL Tablets (18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg)
Oxycodone MR Tablets	Abtard MR Tablets
Oxycodone <b>120mg MR tablets</b>	Longtec <b>120mg MR Tablets</b>
Quetiapine MR Tablets	Zaluron XL Tablets
Tramadol MR Tablets	Marol MR Tablets

### Quality Improvement Award

We are very pleased to announce that the Medicines Optimisation team have won the Kent Surrey and Sussex Academic Health Science Network award for 'Spirometry Quality Improvement Project'

The "Enhancing Patient Outcomes in COPD" (EPIC) project lead by Cath Cooksey was announced the winner at the K.S.S Respiratory Improvement Awards May 2019.

## Stock issues

The following stock issues have been bought to our attention; Full details will be sent out with this newsletter

**Xaggitin 36mg XL tablets** (Methylphenidate) - As an alternative please supply required dose from other available strengths (18mg, 27mg, 54mg)

**Microgynon 30 Tablets** – As an alternative please supply any of the following, Rigevidon, Levest or Elevin.

**Colestyramine** – Questran Light & Questran Standard – in stock but only available from Alliance emergency line – can phone and order. No alternative available

**Diamorphine 5mg Injection** – Likely to go out of stock of diamorphine 5mg injection by 27 May 2019 with a resupply date of w/c 5 August 2019. All other strengths of diamorphine injection are not affected by this issue.

Department of Health have been working closely with suppliers of diamorphine and there are sufficient supplies of diamorphine 10mg injection to support forecasted use of diamorphine 5mg injection for primary care including hospices. Diamorphine 10mg injection will be available to order from usual wholesalers.

## Training Opportunity

Invicta Health Learning are offering a 'free' day course on 'Prescriptions and Prescribing Explained' which is a brand new course designed for prescription clerks and those dealing with prescriptions.

Courses dates below: All courses are 9.30am till 4.30.

- Wednesday 12th June 2019 @ Arrow Riding Centre, Dareth Park Avenue, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6LZ
- Thursday 13th June 2019 @ Demelza House, Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DZ
- Tuesday 9th July 2019 @ Three Hills Sports Park, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, CT19 5JU
- Thursday 5th September 2019 @ The Towers School and Sixth Form Centre, Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9AL

Delegates can book a place via the Invicta Health website: <http://invictahealth.learningpool.com> or call on 03000 11 22 44 (opt 2) or email [learning@invictahealth.co.uk](mailto:learning@invictahealth.co.uk)

## Summary of Guidance and Evidence for use of Multi-Compartment Compliance Aids (MCCAs)

Follow the link below to the document providing a summary of the guidance and evidence for use of multi-compartment compliance aids (MCCAs) as was presented at the London RMOC in March 2019.

[Link to guidance](#)

## Antimicrobial Stewardship campaign – Community Pharmacies

As part of the safe and appropriate antibiotic prescribing and our Antimicrobial Stewardship campaign, the Medicines Optimisation Team has been actively promoting the latest NICE and Public Health England antibiotic guidance within Swale CCG. The guidance can be accessed via [this link](#).

Our focus this year will be on the reduction in use of Trimethoprim in patients aged 70 years and over, aligned with national targets and guidance. This age group has been identified nationally as a cohort with a high Trimethoprim resistance rate and hence there is an increased focus to promote more appropriate antibiotics for these patients. This involves making sure the correct empirical treatment of antibiotics are prescribed to these patients and also that all the recommended antibiotics are readily available from pharmacies.

Therefore to ensure a seamless service and high quality care is delivered to our patients in Swale, your active support in driving this national campaign forward is paramount. You and your staff are kindly requested to make sure a small stock of the following antibiotics are kept to avoid delay in patients' treatment.

- Pivmecillinam 200mg tablets Pack Size of 10 ( £5.40) Drug Tariff June 2019
- Fosfomycin 3g granules Single dose sachets Pack Size of 1( £4.86) Drug Tariff June 2019

## Yellow Card: Decline in reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions

2018 saw a fall in reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the Yellow Card Scheme from key reporter groups, including GPs, pharmacists, and hospital doctors. Every Yellow Card report counts, and a few minutes taken by you or your patient to report can make a lifetime of difference for others – don't delay, report today. See attached MHRA newsletter for more information.

You can report an ADR online accessed via [this link](#)

## Updated Drug Prices for May 2019 – Due to Stock Shortages

Drug	Pack size	Concession Price	Previous Price	Price Increase
Sevelamer 800mg tablets	180	£127.97	£31.52	£96.45
Riluzole 50mg tablets	56	£69.95	£12.08	£57.87
Ibandronic acid 50mg tablets	28	£55.00	£6.86	£48.14
Dosulepin 75mg tablets	28	£12.59	£1.31	£11.28
Risedronate sodium 35mg tablets	4	£11.60	£0.77	£10.83
Amiloride 5mg tablets	28	£9.49	£3.29	£6.20
Betahistine 8mg tablets	84	£2.61	£1.16	£1.45
Bumetanide 1mg tablets	28	£1.85	£1.31	£0.54
Candesartan 32mg tablets	28	£2.49	£1.76	£0.73
Candesartan 8mg tablets	28	£2.50	£0.99	£1.51
Carvedilol 12.5mg tablets	28	£2.20	£0.89	£1.31
Carvedilol 25mg tablets	28	£2.80	£1.11	£1.69
Carvedilol 3.125mg tablets	28	£1.16	£0.91	£0.25
Celecoxib 100mg capsules	60	£3.29	£2.72	£0.57
Celecoxib 200mg capsules	30	£11.49	£2.72	£8.77
Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops	10ml	£2.16	£1.55	£0.61
Clomipramine 50mg capsules	28	£4.12	£3.66	£0.46
Co-careldopa 25mg/100mg tablets	100	£9.76	£9.02	£0.74
Diamorphine 30mg ampoules	5	£16.52	£15.05	£1.47
Ibandronic acid 150mg tablets	1	£11.00	£1.10	£9.90
Irbesartan 150mg tablets	28	£3.20	£2.18	£1.02
Irbesartan 300mg tablets	28	£4.00	£2.77	£1.23
Losartan 100mg tablets	28	£3.20	£1.23	£1.97
Losartan 12.5mg tablets	28	£4.62	£3.09	£1.53
Metoprolol 100mg tablets	28	£3.30	£1.17	£2.13
Metoprolol 50mg tablets	28	£6.23	£1.02	£5.21
Metronidazole 200mg tablets	21	£2.31	£1.83	£0.48
Metronidazole 400mg tablets	21	£6.00	£5.47	£0.53
Naproxen 250mg GR tablets	56	£10.00	£7.23	£2.77
Naproxen 250mg tablets	28	£3.76	£1.51	£2.25
Naproxen 500mg GR tablets	56	£19.25	£14.10	£5.15
Nortriptyline 10mg tablets	100	£5.74	£4.29	£1.45
Pantoprazole 20mg GR tablets	28	£4.25	£0.90	£3.35
Pantoprazole 40mg GR tablets	28	£6.95	£1.06	£5.89
Quetiapine 200mg tablets	60	£12.10	£5.68	£6.42
Quetiapine 300mg tablets	60	£7.21	£6.66	£0.55
Quinine bisulfate 300mg tablets	28	£2.38	£1.59	£0.79
Quinine sulfate 300mg tablets	28	£3.79	£1.94	£1.85
Telmisartan 20mg tablets	28	£3.22	£2.26	£0.96
Telmisartan 80mg tablets	28	£6.60	£5.17	£1.43
Tibolone 2.5mg tablets	28	£9.00	£7.66	£1.34
Topiramate 100mg tablets	60	£21.83	£14.83	£7.00