

What's in this Edition

- Current Team Projects
- Future Meeting Dates
- Delayed Antibiotic prescribing, Tear Off Pads
- New national pharmacy service
- KidNaps®
- Emerade pens
- Stock issues
- Drug Safety Updates – Oct 2019
- Updated Drug Prices

Future Meeting Dates 2019-20

Prescribing Leads Meeting:

- **Weds 11th Dec-19 CANCELLED**

- **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*

New National Pharmacy Service

A new national pharmacy service has just been launched, Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS), where NHS111 can refer patients to pharmacies if the patient has a minor illness or needs urgent medicines.

Although, the GP practices will not be involved every time a patient is referred it would be great to raise awareness of the new service.

Please click [here](#) to view more.

Emerade Pens – Patients Reminded to Carry TWO Pens

Patients who require Emerade auto-injector pens for emergency treatment of severe acute allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) are strongly advised to carry two, in-date pens with them at all times.

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.
- Appropriate use of Coxib's and Diclofenac.
- Review of appropriate Melatonin prescribing.
- Identify high-risk medication on eRD

Delayed Antibiotic Prescribing – Tear-Off Pads

Last year the Medicines Optimisation Team supplied all Practices with tear-off pads that could be issued to patients who do not require antibiotics at the end of a consultation. These provide self-care advice with information about what to expect and what to do if they do not get better.

If you require any more of these tear-off pads, or if you have surplus supplies you are not using, please contact us for delivery/collection.

KidNaps® (Melatonin Liquid) – Ordering

We have been informed that some Pharmacies are having issues order KidNaps® liquid from some wholesalers, and that the wholesalers are adding high delivery fees as the item is listed as a 'special'.

This is resulting in patients and their careers experience delays and frustration in obtaining this medication.

**KidNaps® can be ordered directly from:
Special Products Ltd, 01932 690325.**

The manufacture has informed us that it takes a couple of days to set up the initial account, and then delivery is 2 working days.

NB: We have been informed that some larger Pharmacy chains are unable to set-up an account directly (due to company restrictions), therefore if a patient is unable to obtain this item from their usual Pharmacy they should be advised to try other suppliers.

Stock Issues

| Medicine | Out of Stock Until | Alternatives | Clinical advice and further information |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| All oral formulations of Ranitidine | No date | Peptac Liquid, Omeprazole 10mg Capsules, Lansoprazole 15mg Capsules | Review to establish if ongoing treatment is still required. If ongoing treatment is still required, then consider switching to an alternative treatment. - Although all oral formulations are expected to be out of stock, very limited supplies of unaffected oral ranitidine products may remain available and should be reserved for those patients in whom alternatives are not clinically appropriate. |
| Questran sachets | Mid 2020 | Questran Light sachets are currently available through Alliance Healthcare. | Given the current issues with all of these agents it would seem prudent to keep patients on their existing treatment for as long as supplies remain available, provided they are benefitting from treatment. If there is a need to switch patients between treatments the following factors should be taken into consideration: |
| Cholestagel (colesevelam) | No date | Mylan have also recently launched a generic | - Both Questran and Questran Light sachets contain 4g anhydrous colestyramine per sachet. - Questran Light contains 30mg of aspartame per sachet (where as Questran contains about 3.8g sugar) and this may lead to tolerability issues in some patients with IBS. |
| Colestid Orange (colestipol) 5g granules | Sept 2019 | colestyramine light 4g sachet that is available via the usual wholesaler route (currently not listed in BNF or Drug Tariff). | - In switching patients between colestipol (5g sachet) and colestyramine (4g sachet) it would seem appropriate to switch on a sachet for sachet basis and then titrate according to response if needed (with specialist input if appropriate). |
| Colestid (colestipol) granules 5g (plain) | Oct 2019 | | - There is no clear guidance on switching from colesevelam to colestyramine. If this turns out to be the only option available, specialist advice will be required. Patient and carers as appropriate should be counselled about any change to their medication BEFORE any change is made. |

Withdrawal of Serious Shortage Protocol for Fluoxetine 10mg Capsule (Ref: SSP01)

You will be aware that on Thursday 3rd October Serious Shortage Protocols were authorised for Fluoxetine Capsules in 10mg, 30mg and 40mg strengths with an expiry date of Thursday 31st October 2019. Please be advised that sufficient stock is now available of Fluoxetine 10mg Capsules to supply normal demand so the Serious Shortage Protocol for Fluoxetine 10mg Capsules (SSP01) are being withdrawn from 23.55pm on Friday 25th October 2019. Any prescriptions for Fluoxetine 10mg Capsules dispensed by Pharmacies after this date must be dispensed in accordance with the prescription in the usual way, as the SSP will no longer be valid for use. The Serious Shortage Protocols for Fluoxetine 30mg and 40mg Capsules remain in effect and can be viewed on the NHS Business Services Authority's [website](#).

Reltrans and Relevtec Patches – No Issues

The manufacture of these items have confirmed that there is NO stock issue with either Reletrans or Relevtec patches. It has been advised that Community Pharmacies ensure they using the correct PIP codes, as stated below:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Reletrans 5mcg | 4023644 | Relevtec 35mcg | 4040895 |
| Reletrans 10mcg | 4023651 | Relevtec 52.5mcg | 4040903 |
| Reletrans 15mcg | 4023669 | Relevtec 70mcg | 4040911 |
| Reletrans 20mcg | 4023677 | | |

Medicines Optimisation Team Update

We have welcomed two new members to our team within the past couple of months; Amali Gamaraachchi and Solaju Akeremale, both Clinical Pharmacists. They will be visiting Practices to undertake clinical medication reviews and will be great assets to the team.

Sadly though, we will be losing our Care Home Pharmacist, Kieran Sohail, at the end of November. Kieran has been working hard to review Swale patients in Nursing and Residential homes and has been able to make some positive improvements. We wish him all the best for his new role within a South Coast Kent PCN.

PCN Pharmacist Vacancies

There are Clinical Pharmacist PCN roles within Medway & Swale currently being advertised on NHS Jobs, if you know of anyone that maybe interested please pass on the following information:

Job Reference: 275-1911CPPCN-UJ-01

https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/?vac_ref=915821342

Drug Safety Updates – Oct 2019

Ingenol Mebutate Gel (Picato ▼): Increased incidence of skin tumours seen in some clinical studies

Patients treated with ingenol mebutate gel are to be vigilant for new skin lesions and to seek medical advice immediately if any occur. Use with caution in patients with a history of skin cancer.

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.
- Advise 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 • report any suspected adverse drug reactions associated with Picato ▼ to the Yellow Card Scheme.

Prescribing Medicines in Renal Impairment: Using the appropriate estimate of renal function to avoid the risk of adverse drug reactions

For most patients and most medicines, estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) is an appropriate measure of renal function for determining dosage adjustments in renal impairment; however, in some circumstances, the Cockcroft-Gault formula should be used to calculate Creatinine Clearance (CrCl).

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- MHRA has received reports and queries related to the choice of renal function estimate used when prescribing medicines for patients with renal impairment.
- 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/m² or >40 kg/m²)
 - 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)

Updated Drug Prices for October 2019 – Due to Stock Shortages

| Drug | Pack size | Concession Price | Previous Price | Price Increase | Possible alternative for top 10 items by cost |
|--|-----------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| Nifedipine 10mg capsules | 90 | £65.63 | £7.30 | £58.33 | No alternative |
| Nifedipine 5mg capsules | 90 | £51.95 | £5.73 | £46.22 | No alternative |
| Lamotrigine 25mg dispersible tablets sugar free | 56 | £23.53 | £2.33 | £21.20 | Consider need for dispersible |
| Cyclizine 50mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules | 5 | £12.61 | £2.82 | £9.79 | Metoclopramide 10mg/2ml injection for new patients only, please refer to bnf for dosage |
| Tizanidine 2mg tablets | 120 | £14.95 | £5.78 | £9.17 | No alternative |
| Memantine 20mg tablets | 28 | £8.99 | £2.02 | £6.97 | 2x10mg (£2.92 per month) |
| Frovatriptan 2.5mg tablets | 6 | £12.04 | £5.14 | £6.90 | No alternative |
| Pizotifen 1.5mg tablets | 28 | £7.95 | £1.55 | £6.40 | 3x500mcg (£3.66 per month) |
| Desmopressin 200microgram tablets | 30 | £19.66 | £13.48 | £6.18 | No alternative |
| Alverine 60mg capsules | 100 | £9.25 | £3.47 | £5.78 | No alternative |

| Drug | Pack size | Concession Price | Previous Price | Price Increase |
|--|-----------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Amiloride 5mg tablets | 28 | £17.96 | £12.35 | £5.61 |
| Cefalexin 125mg/5ml oral suspension | 100ml | £1.95 | £0.84 | £1.11 |
| Cefalexin 250mg/5ml oral suspension | 100ml | £2.25 | £1.40 | £0.85 |
| Hydroxyzine 10mg tablets | 84 | £2.95 | £1.20 | £1.75 |
| Hydroxyzine 25mg tablets | 28 | £0.85 | £0.62 | £0.23 |
| Indapamide 2.5mg tablets | 28 | £2.48 | £1.08 | £1.40 |
| Indoramin 20mg tablets | 60 | £11.45 | £8.61 | £2.84 |
| Irbesartan 150mg tablets | 28 | £5.57 | £3.54 | £2.03 |
| Irbesartan 300mg tablets | 28 | £5.98 | £2.77 | £3.21 |
| Lamotrigine 100mg dispersible tablets sugar free | 56 | £7.47 | £4.09 | £3.38 |
| Levetiracetam 1g tablets | 60 | £9.73 | £8.10 | £1.63 |
| Levetiracetam 250mg tablets | 60 | £4.78 | £3.27 | £1.51 |
| Levetiracetam 500mg tablets | 60 | £8.07 | £5.20 | £2.87 |
| Meloxicam 15mg tablets | 30 | £3.13 | £1.77 | £1.36 |
| Meloxicam 7.5mg tablets | 30 | £1.50 | £1.13 | £0.37 |
| Memantine 10mg tablets | 28 | £4.00 | £1.51 | £2.49 |
| Mirtazapine 30mg tablets | 28 | £2.25 | £1.24 | £1.01 |
| Mirtazapine 45mg tablets | 28 | £1.99 | £1.50 | £0.49 |
| Mometasone 50mcg/dose nasal spray | 140 | £4.11 | £1.97 | £2.14 |
| Orlistat 120mg capsules | 84 | £28.77 | £27.54 | £1.23 |
| Oxytetracycline 250mg tablets | 28 | £1.80 | £0.95 | £0.85 |
| Quetiapine 25mg tablets | 60 | £3.23 | £2.20 | £1.03 |
| Quinine sulfate 200mg tablets | 28 | £3.20 | £1.90 | £1.30 |
| Quinine sulfate 300mg tablets | 28 | £4.84 | £1.80 | £3.04 |
| Ranitidine 150mg tablets | 60 | £2.49 | £1.65 | £0.84 |
| Ranitidine 300mg tablets | 30 | £2.49 | £1.55 | £0.94 |
| Ranitidine 75mg/5ml oral solution sugar free | 300ml | £6.84 | £6.52 | £0.32 |