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Intranet site (Wiltshire specific): <https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk>

## ACTIONS this month:-

- Watch Sean's story
- Identify a practice lead for QoF safety audits
- Identify patients on Nardil (phenelzine) before shortage occurs – expected August
- Therapeutic switches to Kelhale, Valupak Vitamins & Minerals & Dermatronics Once Heel Balm

## Opioid Awareness

Sean's story – an inspiring story for both patients and prescribers is available on NHS England's YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnJHJ9ZlJY&feature=youtu.be>

The film highlights the dangers of over-prescribing of opioids for chronic pain and shows how a patient, Sean Jennings, from Cornwall changed his life with other treatment.

**ACTION: Well worthwhile trying to find 8 minutes to view this video**

## DOAC – Safe and effective prescribing continued....

- 1) Edoxaban is being recommended as the preferred first line DOAC option in some of our areas (Wilts) BUT do remember that there is evidence that it may be better to avoid in patients with a high Creatinine Clearance. If you are considering pharma sponsored team input around AF or switches, please ensure your practice protocol considers this scenario

*SPC excerpt: Renal function in NVAf*

*A trend towards decreasing efficacy with increasing creatinine clearance was observed for edoxaban compared to well-managed warfarin. Therefore, edoxaban should only be used in patients with NVAf and **high**\* creatinine clearance after a careful evaluation of the individual thromboembolic and bleeding risk. \*Correspondence from company recommends >eGFR of 95ml/min (or 90 as measured in UK) [Apologies, we know it's confusing with interchanging eGFR/CrCl!]*

- 2) Useful guide published from SPS – practical guide to dosing issues of DOACs <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/DOAC-dosing-in-renal-impairment-vs2-July-2019-AW.pdf>

## QoF Safety Audits

Three safety audits have been incorporated into QoF for 19/20 (NSAID, Lithium, Valproate in females of child bearing age. Support (including searches) is available from Ardens website

<https://support.ardens.org.uk/support/solutions/articles/31000150617-quality-improvement-prescribing-safety>

**ACTION: Identify a lead within each practice to ensure QoF audits are completed**

## MHRA / Drug Safety Updates

**RIVAROXABAN** – reminder that 15mg and 20mg tablets should be taken with food, MHRA has received a small number of reports suggesting lack of efficacy if rivaroxaban has been taken on an empty stomach.

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/rivaroxaban-xarelto-reminder-that-15-mg-and-20-mg-tablets-should-be-taken-with-food>

**EMERADE** - a risk of Emerade product failing to deliver a dose of adrenaline from the syringe due to blockage of the needle. A reminder therefore of 2017 guidance to always carry two in-date adrenaline autoinjectors at all times

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/class-4-medicines-defect-information-emerade-150-300-and-500-microgram-solution-for-injection-in-pre-filled-syringe-mdr-55-06-18>

## Formulary Update

Formulary	Drug	Decision	Comments
BCAP & 3Ts	Trimovate	Green	Suitable for prescribing in limited situations only due to being considerably more expensive. See useful table BCAP website for alternatives.
BCAP & SFT	Ertugliflozin	Green	As monotherapy or with metformin for treating type 2 diabetes. First line option in patients without pre-existing CV disease
BCAP & 3Ts	Kelhale	Green	A cost-effective equivalent to Qvar inhaler, recommended
SFT	Fixapost (latanoprost / timolol) eye drops	Green	
BCAP & 3Ts	Dequalinium chloride	Green	For the treatment of bacterial vaginosis where first line treatment (metronidazole) is not effective or not tolerated
BCAP & 3Ts	Paravit CF capsules / liquid	Green	Multivitamin supplement for CF patients. Used by tertiary centre in Bristol as cost-effective
3Ts	Alkindi (hydrocortisone)	Amber	1mg capsules only for doses under 5mg or doses not in multiples of 5mg
BCAP	GTN patches	Red	Restricted use for short term secondary care indications
BCAP	Pyridostigmine bromide	Red	For the management of postural hypotension
BCAP	Budesonide orodispersible tablets	Red	For the treatment of eosinophilic esophagitis in adults
3Ts	Etoricoxib	Red	Post op in patients with high bleeding risk and intolerant of conventional NSAIDs

### BSW Approved Cost Saving Switches appearing in Optimise Rx

QVAR 50 & 100mcg MDI → **Kelhale** 50 & 100mcg MDI (therapeutically equivalent) – saving ~£100k across BSW  
 Forceval → **Valupak Multivitamin & Mineral** (NB. only prescribable for bariatric patients) – saving ~£25k across BSW  
 Flexitol → **Dermatonics Once Heel Balm** – saving £10k across BSW (plus only once a day application instead of twice)

### Shortages and Alternatives

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - NARDIL (Phenelzine 15mg)** – will be out of stock from beginning of August until at least the end of October 2019. An unlicensed product can be sourced from abroad but be aware lead times may be longer. If you think patients are likely to be without medication, urgent advice from specialist should be sought.

**ACTION:** Identify any patients likely to experience problems ASAP so an alternative can be sourced

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-phenelzine-15mg-tablets-nardil/>

**GENERAL** - Check on the latest drug supply issues with MIMS' shortages tracker. Please register and log in to view. Registration is free for GPs and nurses. Pharmacists based in GP practices can also register for free by emailing [gponline.support@haymarket.com](mailto:gponline.support@haymarket.com). Other users may subscribe at [mims.co.uk/subscribe](http://mims.co.uk/subscribe). We are finding this to be a useful resource as it is updated regularly.

<https://www.mims.co.uk/drug-shortages-live-tracker/article/1581516>

### Website Updates – most of the guidance will be applicable to all 3 CCGs

Contraception – Morning After Pill  
 (Levonorgestrel) PGD Expiry 31/3/22  
 (Wilts only)

<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1202>