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Medicines Management Newsletter

NHS

Wiltshire

Clinical Commissioning Group

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Intranet site : <https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk>

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ACTIONS this month:-

- Wiltshire CCG recommends to prescribe antibiotics to children following local guidance, rather than the alternatives proposed by other trusts
- GPs remain unable to prescribe Cannabis containing medicines
- Carefully review indication before switching a patient's emollient cream
- Practices and Pharmacies should continue to promote Self-Care and avoid routine prescribing of OTC medication
- GP practices should access the TARGET antibiotic toolkit and consider what resources they could use to optimise antibiotic use

Antibiotic prescribing in children

Controversy around the prescribing of certain antibiotics and/or higher doses for children has arisen in the last few weeks after the **publication of new prescribing recommendations** within Wessex CCGs by Wessex LMC.

Since Wiltshire practices are members of Wessex LMC, GPs have received this communication.

Wiltshire CCG and Wessex LMC advice for practices in Wiltshire:

Please continue to use the local BaNES/Swindon/Wiltshire antimicrobial guidelines which align to NICE and local assurance processes. The SCAN Wessex guidance is not in line with the new NICE common infections guidance, or the existing PHE guidance which our formulary groups adopt.

Guidelines for Antibiotic Prescribing - Full version

<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=87>

Guidelines for Antibiotic Prescribing - Children (short version)

<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1568>

ACTION: Wiltshire CCG recommends to only use locally approved antibiotic guidance

Prescribing Cannabis

Legal status of Cannabis containing medicines will change on 1st November.

However, **prescribing will be restricted to specialists** only in the first instance.

Specialists wanting to prescribe a cannabis-containing medicine for their patients will still need to apply for **IFR prior to initiating treatment**

ACTION: GPs remain unable to prescribe Cannabis containing medicines

Clarification on the appropriate use of creams

Our TVN teams report that prescription requests for Excetra cream, Dermol 500 lotion and Aproderm barrier cream are occasionally being substituted with clinically non-equivalent products.

- *Epimax* cream and *Excetra* cream are **first line emollients** that can be used for dry skin, eczema, psoriasis... However their composition is not identical.
- *ExCetra* cream has much **higher glycerine** content and is to be used for prevention **in leg ulceration** (where *Cetaben* cream would have been used before as they have the same composition). Please **do not offer Epimax** instead for the care of leg ulcers
- *Dermol 500* is advocated for **infection** as a short-term treatment. Also, for long-term on the advice from TVN team for **prevention** in wounds with recurrent leg ulcers as it contains an **antimicrobial agent**. It is not to be used as a general emollient.
- **Aproderm Barrier** Cream is on formulary as a very **cost-effective barrier cream**

ACTION: Carefully review indication before switching a patient's emollient cream

NHS England resources on OTC medication

The recommendation to avoid prescribing OTC medication for 35 minor or self-limiting conditions was advocated by NHS England from March 2018 and adopted by Wiltshire CCG from June 2018

<http://www.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/over-the-counter>

NHS England has now published further resources for practices to implement this guidance and for patients to be informed of the changes:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/prescribing-of-over-the-counter-medicines-is-changing/>

ACTION: GP Practices and Pharmacies should continue to promote Self-Care and avoid routine appointments or prescribing of OTC medication in line with NHSE recommendation

Formulary Update

Formulary	Drug	Decision	Comments
3Ts	Octreotide	Amber	For relief of symptoms associated with acromegaly. Also used in palliative care (unlicensed).
3Ts	Octreotide	Red	For relief of symptoms associated with neuroendocrine (particularly carcinoid) tumours.
3Ts	Epimax Cream	Green	First line on emollient guidance – <i>Similar to Diprobase</i>
3Ts	Excetra Cream	Green	Second line – <i>Similar to Cetraben</i> (Contains Glycerin)
3Ts	Hydromol Ointment	Green	
ICID	Lidocaine Plasters	Red	For Rib Fractures or Post-Herpetic Neuralgia
BCAP	Nordimet (Methotrexate)	Non-formulary	Please prescribe Metoject pen or Zlatal syringe
BCAP	Cortiment [®] (Budesonide MR tablets)	Red	For mild to moderate UC
BCAP	R1 gel & R2 lotion	Non-formulary	Not cost-effective and not on guidance

Electronic Prescribing (EPS) of Controlled Drugs (CDs)

NHS Digital has started to pilot the prescribing and dispensing of EPS Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs (CDs) in England. Initially around ten GP practices in London and the North have gained the ability to prescribe CDs with the project **aiming to demonstrate that EPS CD prescribing is safe** and appropriate to be rolled out more widely.

Patients can get their prescriptions dispensed from **any community pharmacy in the country**, so community pharmacy teams outside of these areas should also take note of these developments.

ACTION: Pharmacies must be aware they could potentially receive EPS CD prescriptions

TARGET Antibiotic Toolkit

TARGET stands for: *Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools*. The toolkit helps **influence prescribers' and patients'** personal attitudes, social norms and perceived barriers to optimal antibiotic prescribing. It includes a **range of resources** that can each be used to support prescribers' and patients' responsible antibiotic use, helping to fulfil CPD and revalidation requirements.

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/TARGETantibiotics/>

The toolkit is designed to be **used by the whole GP practice** or out of hours team. These resources can be used flexibly, either as standalone materials or as part of an integrated package.

The TARGET group also has a **quarterly bulletin** packed with news, events and useful advice on all things antibiotics. To sign up, click [here](#)

ACTION: GP practices should explore the toolkit and incorporate as many resources as possible (patient leaflets and videos, audits, reference tools, training scenarios) into their practise

Website Updates

Shortage of Ativan (Lorazepam) Injection	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1782
NICE BITES Rheumatology	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1783
BSW STP Antiplatelets Summary (GWH & RUH only)	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1784
Diltiazem Dosing Regimes	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1785
Full wound Dressing Formulary and Guidance 2018/19	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=784
Pain Management Guidance (full version)	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=286
Exceptional Prescribing List 2018/19 (previously High cost Drugs)	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1623
Nalmefene for Alcohol Treatment Protocol for GPs	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1571
Diagnosed Adult Asthma: Guidance on adjusting treatment	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1696
Chronic Migraine Pathway for Adults	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1641
Trimovate alternatives	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1771

All POD documents are now online and available to view on our website