

Low Value Medicines (LVM) Overview

Medicines Management Team Advisory Summary

Eighteen treatments (7 'blacklist' and 11 'do not prescribe') have been assessed by the recent NHS England Low Value Medicines (LVM) consultation and summarised in table below.

LVM Blacklist Part 1 and LVM 'Do not prescribe' Part 2 give more details and supporting information.

Do NOT prescribe these items for any new patients and REVIEW existing patients as per the suggested actions listed by each treatment.

Introduction

- NHS England (NHSE) has published national guidance on 18 medicines which should no longer be routinely prescribed in primary care to ensure people receive the safest and most effective treatment available, and save the NHS up to £141 million a year.
- This document serves to highlight the treatments, costs, patient numbers and impact with respect to the Wiltshire CCG population.
- The table is organised with those areas most suitable to target to release cost-savings, and reduce prescribing spend (or improve safety).
- The summary table should be read in conjunction with Part 1 & 2 which gives further detail on rationale, background and proposed actions.

Treatment	Spend 2016/17	Number of patients**	Avg cost per item per month	Part 1 Blacklist or part 2 LVM	New Patients	Existing Patients	MMT Statement available?	ACTIONS (Primary Care Team unless stated)
Treatments with greatest potential for action and realised cost-savings								
Trimipramine (anti-depressant)	£96,556	25	£331	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch therapy.	No	Ask GP practices to review & switch with PrescQIPP support resources.
Co-proxamol (pain reliever)	£73,723	50	£124	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Withdraw and replace with paracetamol +/- weak opioid in separate preparations. Safety issue.	No	Letter to GP practices to ask them to urgently review & switch patients. Produce MMT statement.
Once daily tadalafil (erectile dysfunction)	£65,412	94	£58	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch to weekly or PRN tadalafil for all indications.	Erectile Dysfunction (ED)	Letter to all practices to review patients & ensure NO BRAND PRESCRIBING. Formulary Pharmacist: Write to all acute trust urology teams to reconfirm position.

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Lidocaine plasters (pain relief)	£50,143	61	£68	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Only for Post-Herpetic Neuralgia in primary care.	Lidocaine Plasters Prescribing Summary	Discuss & confirm formulary and exceptions positions.
Oxycodone & naloxone combination (pain relief)	£42,869	63	£57	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch to opioid plus laxative.	PrescQipp Bulletin	Write letter to all practices to review patients. Already non-formulary.
Dosulepin (anti-depressant)	£25,928	832	£2.60	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch to another antidepressant. Safety issue.	Dosulepin (DROP-list)	Write letter to all practices to review patients.
Total spend	£354,631	(approx 40% of total spend)						
Treatments with lesser potential for action and/or realised cost-savings								
Liothyronine (T3; thyroid hormone)	£243,763	49	£416	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations; no T3 mono-therapy.	Shared care if T4&T3 – NHS Endocrinologist to review if private initiated.	Thyroid Hormone Replacement	Write letter to all practices to ensure that all patients on T3 are under a NHS specialist.
Immediate release fentanyl (pain relief)	£86,119	23	£317	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Palliative care only; IFR every other patient.	No	Produce MMT statement to clarify palliative care use only or IFR.
Travel Vaccines	£86,000	n/a	n/a	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Await NHSE guidance Spring 2018.	No	No current action due to stock problems
Paracetamol & Tramadol combination (pain relief)	£26,739	144	£15	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch to separate ingredients.	Tramacet	GP practices previously informed of unsuitability of combination products.
Omega 3 (heart health)	£22,687	89	£21	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Stop and purchase OTC – even if recommended by specialist lipid clinic.	Omega 3 summary	Write letter to all practices to review patients. Formulary Pharmacist: Have asked BCAP to remove formulary position.
Rubefacients (topical pain relief)	£24,000	n/a	n/a	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Stop and advise purchase OTC.	Rubefacients	Write letter to all practices to review patients.
Prolonged release Doxazosin (anti-hypertensive)	£17,989	115	£13	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch to immediate release.	PrescQIPP Doxazosin MR Bulletin	GP practices already informed of unsuitability of MR preparation.

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Lutein and Antioxidants (eye vitamin supplements)	£11,300	83	£11	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Stop and advise purchase OTC.	Dietary supplements for AMD	Write letter to all practices to review patients. Formulary Pharmacist: Write to acute trusts eye departments to reiterate position.
Perindopril arginine (anti-hypertensive)	£4064	29	£12	Part 2 LVM	No new initiations	Switch to erbumine.	PrescQIPP Perindopril Bulletin	GP practices already aware of unsuitability of preparation.
Homeopathy	£970	n/a	n/a	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Stop and advise purchase OTC.	No	No action
Herbal Medicines	£200	n/a	n/a	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Stop and advise purchase OTC.	No	No action
Glucosamine and Chondroitin (pain relief)	£68	1 or 2	£34	Part 1 Blacklist	No new initiations	Stop and advise purchase OTC.	Glucosamine & Chondroitin advisory summary	No action
Spend (less potential to change items)	£523,899	(approx 60% of total spend)						
Total spend overall 2016/7	£878,530							

** Number of patients is an approximation based on number of items divided by 12 months. This approximation assumes each item is for one month treatment; and does not reflect if patient requires several items for different dosages, or differing frequency or length of prescription duration.

n/a due to unlicensed nature of medicine or undefined medicine category, cannot determine number of items or number of patients

References

1. PrescQipp Low Value Medicines support pack, background info and PILs available from <https://www.prescqipp.info/droplist/projectsection/default1/the-prescqipp-drop-list#low-value-medicines-lvm>
2. NHS England Consultation Report on Findings 30 November 2017 available from <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-consultation-report-of-findings/>
3. NHS England Guidance for CCGs available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-pc-ccg-guidance.pdf>