



Medicines Optimisation Update

Issue 8: May 2018

This newsletter is published monthly and contains useful information and resources to help ensure that medicines continue to be prescribed both safely and effectively for our local population.

Readership Survey

To estimate the total reach of the 'Medicines Optimisation Update' newsletter, we ask that each reader clicks on the following link <http://bit.ly/MOUreaders>. You will be directed to the BNSSG formulary website (which can then be closed), however use of the above link will enable us to estimate the approximate number of readers this month!

Prescribing of Dextromethorphan SF / 'Robitussin® Dry Cough'

Patients receiving treatment from NBT for interstitial lung disease may be prescribed dextromethorphan as a cough suppressant. If prescribed generically the products suggested on Emis are all 'blacklisted' so not allowed to be prescribed on an FP10 NHS prescription. Any requests from NBT for dextromethorphan should therefore be prescribed as the branded product 'Robitussin Dry Cough'.

Pain Service Referral Consultation

BNSSG is undertaking a period of consultation on a proposed Criteria Based Access policy for 'Referral to secondary care pain services for assessment and treatment'. All interested parties including clinicians and patients are encouraged to participate in the consultation <http://bit.ly/painCON>.

Antibiotic Quality Premium Success

The financial year 2017/18 saw Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG meet antibiotic 'Quality Premium' performance targets in the following three areas:

CCG	Antibiotics per STAR-PU (Target)	Trimethoprim : Nitrofurantoin Ratio (Target)	Trimethoprim to Patients aged >70 (Target)
Bristol	0.889 (below 1.161)	0.814 (below 1.482)	7,886 (below 10,642)
North Somerset	0.960 (below 1.161)	0.947 (below 1.491)	6,319 (below 7,665)
South Gloucestershire	0.901 (below 1.161)	1.031 (below 1.616)	5,747 (below 6,670)

Additionally North Somerset met an additional NHS England target limiting the percentage of co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and quinolones as a portion of all antibiotic prescribing to below 10%.

The 2018/19 Quality Premium for the following two clinical areas will need to be met by BNSSG CCG. The 2018/19 targets are Antibiotics per STAR-PU (below 0.965) and Trimethoprim prescribed to patients aged 70 years and greater (below 19,406). Trimethoprim:Nitrofurantoin ratio is not part of the 2018/19 premium. The full data for all CCGs can be found here: <http://bit.ly/abxQP>

1718

Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme

New materials to support the Pregnancy Prevention Programme http://bit.ly/2FrXS_cW for women prescribed Valproate medicines, are now available from the MHRA <http://bit.ly/PPPvalp>. Hard copies will be delivered to health care professionals over the coming weeks. BNSSG is working closely with NBT and AWP to develop an interface advice point to assist primary care prescribers with the ongoing management of these patients. Practices are asked to identify women and girls of childbearing potential who are receiving valproate medicines and ensure the conditions of the Pregnancy Prevention Programme are being met.

Trimovate® Cream Alternatives

Trimovate cream is now available only as an unlicensed special order product, costing £14.95 plus a handling fee of £20. This applies whether the product is prescribed as the Trimovate brand, or as 'Clobetasone 0.05%/Oxytetracycline 3%/Nystatin 100,000units/g cream'. <http://bit.ly/trimova te> Prescribers are advised to prescribe an alternative UK licensed product wherever possible.

BNSSG Formulary Changes

The following decisions were made with respect to the BNSSG Adult Joint Formulary:

New Drug Requests

Drug	Decision
Apixaban	Not approved for patients undergoing mitral valve repair and tissue valve replacements
Fobumix Easyhaler	Approved for asthma and COPD. This is a combination budesonide/formoterol inhaler, consequently DuoResp Spiromax will be made non-formulary.

Shared Care Protocols

Drug	Decision
Azathioprine	Update approved for rheumatology http://bit.ly/AZAscp
Hydroxychloroquine	Update approved for rheumatology http://bit.ly/hyxySCP
Riluzole	Update approved for ALS http://bit.ly/rilzSCP
Levodopa/Carbidopa/Entacapone	Update approved for Parkinsons disease http://bit.ly/staSCP

Traffic Light Status

Drug	Decision
Modafinil CP	Approved RED to AMBER.. SCP approved http://bit.ly/mo d S CP
Quinagolide	Approved RED to AMBER
Dymista Nasal Spray (Azelastine hydrochloride/fluticasone propionate)	Not approved AMBER to GREEN

Roche Test Strip Recall <http://bit.ly/acculet>

Roche Diabetes Care has identified certain batches of *Accu-chek®* Aviva and Performa blood glucose test strips which may provide erroneous results when used. In most instances use of a faulty strip is expected to display an error message where the strip is not recognised by the device, but in some cases incorrect blood glucose readings may be displayed. Community pharmacies are advised to check their stock for affected batches.

Diamorphine Stock Shortage

NHS England is anticipating a shortage of 'low-strength' diamorphine ampoules in June 2018 following supply issues experienced by Accord Pharmaceuticals at their German manufacturing site. Despite efforts to manage the expected disruption, it is anticipated there will only be sufficient stocks of 5mg ampoules to last until the week commencing 4th June, with 10mg supplies expected to be exhausted the following week. Supplies are currently expected to resume 28th June. Clinicians are advised to be mindful of this national issue and avoid stockpiling. Further advice is available <http://bit.ly/diam OOS> should the use of alternatives become necessary for your patients.