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Date: 30th January 2013

Pencadlys Bwrdd Iechyd Hywel Dda
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Hywel Dda Health Board Headquarters
Merlins Court, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1SB
Tel No: (01437) 771220

To All GP Practices HDHB
All Community Pharmacies HDHB

Dear Colleague,

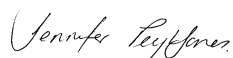
Prescription of Gamolenic Acid (Update)

As highlighted in a previous correspondence earlier this month, the product licences for Epogam and Efamast, were withdrawn in 2002. Epogam was licensed for the symptomatic relief of atopic eczema in children and adults and Efamast was licensed to treat mastalgia. The withdrawal followed a review by the MCA/Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM), which did not support the current standard of efficacy required for the authorisation of these products as medicines for the treatment of eczema and mastalgia.

Gamolenic acid is not recognised as a food supplement within the Drug Tariff under the ACBS arrangements. It does not appear in the British National Formulary as a medicine. To re-iterate the position of the Health Board:

- **Due to lack of evidence of efficacy, gamolenic acid should not be prescribed at NHS expense. It has been added to the list of “Not recommended” Medicines in Hywel Dda.**
- **Patients currently being prescribed gamolenic acid should have their treatment discontinued. (If you require assistance please contact your Locality Medicines Management Team).**
- **Unlicensed dietary supplements of Evening Primrose Oil continue to be available through Community Pharmacies where pharmacists will be able to discuss the lack of evidence for these products and provide advice on other treatments available where appropriate.**

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Pugh-Jones
Head of Medicines Management (Acting)

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