Tablet Press

The prescribing newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacists
NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG

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- **Fusidic acid eye drops**

Prescribers are alerted to the escalating price of fusidic acid 1% modified-release eye drops. Since the discontinuation of Fucithalmic in August 2014 the price has continued to rise and has now reached £29.06 for 5g (Drug Tariff, November 2015). Prescribers are asked to ensure that, where antibiotic treatment of conjunctivitis is considered necessary, chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops are preferred first line (£1.53 for 10ml)

- **Fosfomycin for the treatment of extended-spectrum Beta-lactamase (ESBL) E. coli UTI**

As advised in the recent Tablet Press Extra, the local microbiology laboratories are now recommending (in line with Public Health England) fosfomycin for the treatment of multi-resistant Extended-spectrum Beta-lactamase (ESBL) E. coli which is also resistant to pivmecillinam.. We understand that there have been some supply problems via AAH but have been assured that this is now resolved. Any pharmacists or dispensing doctors that continue to have supply problems are asked to contact the Medicines Management team.

- **CCG Formulary on SystmOne**

The CCG formulary on SystmOne (S1) has historically contained both formulary items as well as amber, red (hospital only) and double red drugs (not to be prescribed) too. This was to enable warning messages to be applied to help prevent red and double red drugs from being inadvertently prescribed. Over time this has led to the formulary becoming very large and difficult to maintain. However, the vast majority of S1 practices have Optimise Rx (or ScriptSwitch) which also provides this information around red and double red drugs so the information is duplicated, and therefore NPMG has decided that the CCG formulary on S1 will now only contain formulary items along with amber (shared care) drugs; which is similar to the way the formulary is presented on EMIS-Web. This change will take place at the beginning of January 2016 and will be updated automatically.
For the minority of practices who do not have Optmise or Scriptswitch please refer to the traffic light page on pathfinder http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/traffic-light-drugs/
and be aware your clinical system will not alert you when any Red or Double Red Drugs are selected from January.
If you would like to consider using Optimise Rx contact your locality prescribing adviser for more information.
If practices have any queries regarding this then again please contact you locality prescribing adviser.

- **New mandatory requisition form for S2 and 3 CDs and approved wording for instalment prescribing**

A Home Office Circular introducing the new mandatory requisition form for Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs and a new set of approved wording for instalment prescribing has been published.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-0272015-approved-mandatory-requisition-form-and-home-office-approved-wording
Statutory instrument 891/2015 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/891/resources) which came into force on 1 June 2015 introduced the requirement to use a mandatory form for requisitions of Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs but delayed those provisions until 30 November 2015. The new form is made freely available on the NHS BSA web pages but with security features incorporated. A link to the specific page is available from the Home Office circular. The circular also introduces a new set of approved wording for instalment prescribing in annex A to the circular.

- **Prescribing responsibilities for Gender Identity Disorder**

Following a few recent queries it may be useful to clarify the recommended prescribing responsibilities in this area as laid out in the Specialised Commissioning Manual
https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/pss-manual.pdf
A summary of the guidance is now available on Pathfinder at
http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3375737/prescribing-responsibilities-for-gender-identity-disorder.pdf

- **New higher strength of Invita D3 launched**

Since the publication of the Northamptonshire Vitamin D guidance in March 2015 a new 50,000IU/1ml strength of Invita D3 has been launched; the product recommended in the guidance is 25,000IU/1ml. The dosage for the treatment of deficiency in adults is 50,000IU per week for 6 weeks so can be given as 2 x 25,000IU/ml or now as 1x 50,000IU/ml.
We are not intending to change the guidance to avoid causing confusion when prescribers and pharmacists are just becoming familiar with the new products but prescribers and pharmacists should be aware that there is now an alternative strength available.

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene
and on the Nene CCG and Corby CCG websites