



# Tablet Press

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

Issue 90

March 2014



- **EMA recommends that strontium remains available but with further restrictions**

The EMA has concluded its review of strontium (Protelos) and has recommended further restricting its use to patients who cannot be treated with other osteoporosis drugs. In addition patients should continue to be evaluated regularly and treatment should be stopped if patients develop heart or circulatory problems, such as uncontrolled high blood pressure or angina. As recommended in a previous review, patients who have a history of cardiovascular problems, such as stroke and heart attack, must not use the medicine.

[www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en\\_GB/document\\_library/Press\\_release/2014/02/WC500161971.pdf](http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Press_release/2014/02/WC500161971.pdf)

- **Combined hormonal contraceptives and VTE: review confirms risk is small**

An MHRA review of the latest evidence on the risk of thromboembolism in association with combined hormonal contraceptives (CHCs) has concluded that:

- the risk of blood clots with all low-dose CHCs is small
- there is good evidence that the risk of VTE may vary between products, depending on the progestogen
- CHCs that contain levonorgestrel, norethisterone, or norgestimate have the lowest risk of VTE
- the benefits of any CHC far outweigh the risk of serious side effects
- prescribers and women should be aware of the major risk factors for thromboembolism, and of the key signs and symptoms <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/DrugSafetyUpdate/CON377645>

- **Flu Vaccination 2014/15**

This month's "Vaccine Update" outlines the flu vaccination cohorts planned for winter 2014-2015. The programme has been extended to include patients aged 4 years. Central stock (Fluenz and inactivated if Fluenz is not suitable) will be available for all children aged 2,3, and 4 years and for all children in clinical risk groups from 6m to 17 years.

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/283815/vaccine\\_update\\_212.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/283815/vaccine_update_212.pdf)

- **NICE Bites – MI Secondary Prevention**

This issue of NICE Bites provides a useful summary of NICE CG 172

[www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/upload/documents/Health%20In%20Focus/NICEBitesJanuary2014.pdf](http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/upload/documents/Health%20In%20Focus/NICEBitesJanuary2014.pdf)

- **Not Dispensed items**

Community pharmacies and dispensing doctors are reminded that where an item has not been dispensed, the 'ND' endorsement should be made in the prescriptions endorsement column immediately adjacent to the prescribed product name **and** a score should be made through the product name in the prescribing area of the form. If the prescribed item is not scored out, there is a risk of incorrect reimbursement.

- **Fluoxetine dosing reminders**

**Fluoxetine 10mg** tablets are an unlicensed special and are sourced at a considerable cost. If a 10mg dose is required a licensed oral solution is available in 20mg/5ml strength. Issuing this oral solution with a dose of 2.5ml is the most cost effective option for supplying 10mg of Fluoxetine.

**Fluoxetine 60mg** capsules are available but at a cost of £33.90 for 30. If a 60mg dose is required prescribing as 3x20mg is the most cost effective option at £3.30 (February 2014 Drug Tariff price).

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

**Disclaimer**

Information in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and true. NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG and their employees accept no liability for loss of any nature, to persons, organisations or institutions that may arise as a result of any errors or omissions.