



Tablet Press

The prescribing newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacists in
Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust



Issue 6

March 2007

- **Hayfever prescribing**

A reminder that **cetirizine** or loratadine are the PCT's first-line non-sedating antihistamines again this year and that **Beconase** (prescribed by brand) is the first-line steroid nasal spray. Please see the Tablet Press Extra Hayfever 2007 issued in February for further details.

- **New Products**

Novartis has launched a combination product containing amlodipine and valsartan (Exforge®) for the treatment of essential hypertension in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled on amlodipine or valsartan monotherapy.

Grünenthal has launched Lidocaine 5% Plasters (Versatis®) for the treatment of post herpetic neuralgia.

Both these products are temporarily categorised as "grey" until they have been formally assessed by NPAG at the end of March.

"Grey" is a holding category for drugs that have not been formally assessed by NPAG and awarded a traffic light designation. Grey medicines, or those not included elsewhere, are those that NPAG has not assessed for therapeutic use and prescribers should refrain from prescribing where possible.

http://nww.northants.nhs.uk/Clinical_Care14070/Left_Menu/Prescribing/Traffic_LightsShared_Care21572/explain.pdf

- **Continuing supply of porcine and bovine insulin**

As you may be aware, Novo Nordisk has made the decision to discontinue the supply of all porcine and bovine insulin by the end of 2007. However, Wockhardt UK (previously CP Pharmaceuticals) will continue to manufacture porcine and bovine insulin for the foreseeable future. It appears that some GP clinical systems do not list animal derived insulins in their drug dictionary, however they are available from Wockhardt and are listed in MIMS.

For more information visit www.wockhardt.co.uk

- **Velosulin**

Novo Nordisk announced the withdrawal of Velosulin in August 2006 and supply was set to continue until December 2007. However, Novo have now announced that stock will not be available after 15th June 2007. Patients will need to be transferred to suitable alternative insulin prior to this date.

- **New and updated Prodigy guidance**

The following new and updated PRODIGY guidance has been issued and is available at www.cks.library.nhs.uk

Amenorrhoea	Hypertension
Asthma	Molluscum contagiosum
Angina	Nappy rash
Atrial fibrillation	Otitis media – acute
Balanitis	Parkinsons disease
Candida – oral	Polycystic ovary syndrome – NEW
Diabetes - glycaemic control	Schizophrenia
Gastroenteritis	Warts (including verrucas)

- **Paediatric pharmacy website**

Community pharmacists presented with prescriptions for unfamiliar dosages for children may find this website useful (in addition to the Children's BNF). Obviously any unresolved queries should be addressed with the prescriber.

www.paedpharm.org.uk

This edition is also available on HNN (Health Network Northants)

<http://nww.northants.nhs.uk/Display/Dynamic.jsp?topid=14070&lhsid=514&oid=2854¤tid=2854>

Disclaimer

Information in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and true. Northamptonshire PCT and its 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.

Contact No 01536 480446