



Tablet Press

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

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- **CD changes to the legal classifications of tramadol, lisdexamfetamine, zopiclone and zaleplon**
Legislation was laid before parliament on 20th May 2014 that the following legislative changes will **come into force on Tuesday 10 June 2014**:
 - Tramadol will become a schedule 3 controlled drug (CD No Register POM), but will be exempt from Safe Custody Regulations. **After 10th June tramadol prescriptions can no longer be transmitted by EPS**
 - Lisdexamfetamine will become a schedule 2 controlled drug (CD POM)
 - Zopiclone and Zaleplon will become schedule 4 part 1 controlled drugs (CD Benz POM)A table summarising the various characteristics of the affected drugs can be found at <http://psnc.org.uk/sunderland-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/89/2014/05/RPS-support-alert-CD-changes-May2014.pdf>
See also the bulletin from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society circulated with this issue.
- **Sayanna Press Patient Group Direction (PGD)**
A PGD for Sayanna Press for use by GP Practice Nurses is now available at <http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/patient-group-directions/>
- **Assessing the association of early life antibiotic prescription with asthma exacerbations, impaired antiviral immunity, and genetic variants in 17q21: a population-based birth cohort study**
The relationship between early-life antibiotic use and the development of wheeze and asthma has been reported in several studies but might arise as a consequence of bias rather than causal relationship. This study, published in the Lancet, investigated the association between antibiotic prescription and subsequent development of atopy, wheeze, and asthma exacerbations, and the relation of early life antibiotic prescription with anti-infective immunity.
Children in a population-based birth cohort were followed from birth to age 11 years. Information on antibiotic prescription, wheeze, and asthma exacerbations was extracted from medical records.
Of 984 families who gave consent, data was extracted for 916 children. The authors noted significantly higher risk of physician-confirmed wheezing after antibiotic prescription (hazard ratio [HR] 1.71, 95% CI 1.32—2.23; $p < 0.0001$) and severe wheeze or asthma exacerbation after antibiotic prescription (HR 2.26, 95% CI 1.03—4.94; $p = 0.041$). In children who wheezed, the hazards of exacerbations (2.09, 1.51—2.90; $p < 0.0001$) and admissions to hospital (2.64, 1.49—4.70; $p = 0.0009$) were significantly increased in the 2 years after the first antibiotic prescription. Children who received antibiotics in infancy had significantly lower induction of cytokines, which are important in host defence against virus infections to both RSV and rhinovirus.
[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600\(14\)70096-7/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(14)70096-7/abstract)
- **“Why asthma still kills: National Review of Asthma Deaths”**
This Royal College of Physicians report (May 2014) analysed data for 195 people thought to have died from asthma between February 2012 and January 2013.
 - Only 23% had been provided with a personal asthma action plan
 - Majority had not received an asthma review in the year before.
 - **Prescribing was not ideal in a number of cases, with over-prescribing of reliever and under-prescribing of preventer.**
 - Patient, family and environmental factors, such as smoking and non-adherence to medical advice, were a factor in 65% of deaths.
- **Adrenaline Autoinjector Supply Problems**
There have been supply issues with some brands of adrenaline autoinjectors over the last couple of weeks, especially the 150microgram dose (child 15-30kg). Apparently Epipen 150microgram is available from Alliance, but they are restricting order quantities. Jext 150microgram will not be available for a couple of weeks. There is also a new product, Emerade, which is available and could be prescribed as an alternative. Emerade is a slightly different device to Epipen or Jext so if this is prescribed the method of administration should be explained to the patient/carer on supply.

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

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