



- **Lipid modification after MI: effect of ezetimibe on risk of death**

A UK observational study suggests that, compared with simvastatin monotherapy, use of statins at higher lipid-lowering equivalent doses may be associated with a reduced risk of death after acute myocardial infarction. This is consistent with clinical trial data and the NICE clinical guideline on lipid modification. However, despite a greater reduction in cholesterol, use of ezetimibe plus a statin did not statistically significantly reduce the risk of death compared with simvastatin monotherapy. The observational nature of the study and in particular the small size of the ezetimibe group limits the conclusions that can be drawn. Nevertheless, there remains no published evidence that ezetimibe, alone or added to a statin, reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease or mortality compared with an active comparator.

Northamptonshire remains above the national average in its use of ezetimibe.

**Medicines Evidence Commentary** : [Lipid modification after myocardial infarction: effect of ezetimibe on risk of death](#)

- **Oral doses of amoxicillin and ampicillin for children**

The recommended oral doses of amoxicillin and ampicillin for children were increased in the BNF in April 2014 to address concerns that children may have been receiving inadequate doses. The HPA has updated its "Management of infection guidance for primary care" <http://www.plain.pathfinder-rf.net/nene/therapeutics/guidelines-antimicrobial-prescribing/> and the amoxicillin dose for otitis media recommended is now in-line with the BNF.

- **Urinary tract infection: diagnosis guide for primary care**

This guidance has been updated by Public Health England and is part of the Primary Care Guidance; Diagnosing and Managing Infections.

This guidance describes:

- when to send urine for culture in women and men over 65 years old
- when to send urine for culture in women and men with catheters
- when to consider a UTI in children aged between 3 months and 3 years old
- when to consider a UTI in children under 3 months old

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/urinary-tract-infection-diagnosis>

- **Boostrix for pregnant women**

The pertussis containing vaccine for pregnant women changed from Repevax to Boostrix on 1 July 2014 and the PGD was amended accordingly; please ensure you are using the right vaccine for the correct cohort. Repevax should now be only used for pre-school boosters. Please send any comments to [england.immsga@nhs.net](mailto:england.immsga@nhs.net)

- **Budesonide / formoterol combination inhalers need to be prescribed by brand**

There are now 2 different inhaler devices containing budesonide and formoterol combinations; Symbicort and DuoResp. The products are bioequivalent but the devices are different and the strengths are stated differently (Symbicort as the "metered" dose of 400/12 or 200/6 and DuoResp as the "delivered" dose of 320/9 or 160/4.5). DuoResp is included in the new Northamptonshire COPD guidelines.

The intended product should be prescribed by brand to ensure that the patient gets the correct inhaler.

- **NICE bites on Pathfinder**

A new page has been created under the Therapeutics section of Pathfinder to save copies of the "NICE bites" which are useful, concise summaries of NICE Clinical Guidelines produced by UKMI. Recent editions include Dyspepsia and GORD, CKD, Lipid Modification and AF.

<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/nice-bites/>

- **Blood glucose testing strips**

If patients are purchasing their own BGT meters from pharmacies, they should be advised that only CareSens N strips will be routinely prescribed on FP10 by their GP (unless an alternative meter has been advised by a specialist for a specific reason). If patients chose to purchase an alternative meter then their practice is unlikely to be willing to prescribe the corresponding BGT strips.

- **Reminder - email addresses for the Prescribing and Medicines Management Team**

The email suffixes for the team, which were previously [firstname.surname@northants.nhs.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@northants.nhs.uk) are now [firstname.surname@neneccg.nhs.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@neneccg.nhs.uk).

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

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