

Medicines Optimisation news headlines

1. Medicines Optimisation

The CCG has adopted the term 'medicines optimisation' to best describe the processes around prescribing, supply and the use of medicines:

Medicines Optimisation is about putting the patient at the heart of any decision, seeing the use of medicines in the context of the patient's overall treatment, involving all stakeholders (not just the prescriber) in decisions about medicines and focussing on the quality, safety, patient acceptability and cost effectiveness of an intervention.

2. Launch of the Medicines Enquiry Helpline

Have you a question about medicines or prescribing in West Hampshire CCG? Can't get hold of your local medicines management team member? Then there is a new dedicated central answerphone line and email address available to help. Run by the Medicines Management Team, with the assurance of a prompt and helpful response. Contact details are as follows:



02380 627898



WHCCG.Medicines-Information-Enquiries@nhs.net

3. Introducing new Cerelle (75microgram desogestrel)

The medicines management team has been recommending the use of the Consilient brand of contraceptives for over a year. Practices in West Hampshire are currently prescribing 30% of the existing product range as the Consilient brand.

Consilient has now brought out an addition to their range. Cerelle has the same active ingredient (desogestrel 75mcg) as Cerazette. Cerelle costs £4.30 for 3x28 tablets whereas Cerazette costs £8.68.

If all current Cerazette prescribing in West Hampshire was prescribed as Cerelle there would be an annual saving of £118,000. The use of the Consilient range of oral contraceptives is supported by the local contraception and sexual health service.

Quality services, better health



4. Behind the Headlines

See Health News Index at NHS Choices for all the stories behind the headlines in the national press. A useful resource when patients ask about stories in the media. [Link](#)

5. QIPP plan cost savings continue into 2013-14

Cost saving recommendations from 2012-13 continue as shown below:

Drug	Intervention
Sulfasalazine E/C	Prescribe as Salazopyrin EN
Rosuvastatin	Consider simvastatin or atorvastatin
Ferrous sulphate tablets	Ferrous fumarate is more cost-effective
Prednisolone tabs	Prescribe as plain tablets not EC
Quetiapine XL preparations	Consider immediate release rather than modified release
Ezetimibe	Prescribe in line with NICE guidance
Co-codamol 30/500 tablets	Prescribe Zapain for all solid dose forms Prescribe effervescent tablets generically
Pregabalin	All strengths of Pregabalin capsules are the same price, so prescribe the minimum number of capsules for cost optimisation.
Esomeprazole	Prescribe as branded Emozul Capsules or Generic Esomeprazole Tablets
Tramadol MR	Prescribe as Tramulief SR
Nystatin oral suspension	Prescribe as Nystan brand
Fluoxetine	Prescribe 60mg fluoxetine as 3 x 20mg capsules
Amisulpiride	Prescribe amisulpiride 400mg as 2 x 200mg
Venlafaxine M/R	Prescribe MR tablets rather than capsules
Osmotic laxatives	If an osmotic laxative is required, prescribe Laxido instead of Movicol.
Oral contraceptives	Consider the Consilient brand of oral contraceptives

Guidelines and Medicines Optimisation advice is available on Pages4PrimaryCare at www.hampshire.nhs.uk/primary-care

User Name: HampshireGP

Password: Rosebowl

Maggie Collin
West Hampshire CCG Lead Pharmacist
Margaret.Collin@nhs.net

Dr James Read
Clinical Director Medicines Management
West Hampshire CCG
JamesRead@nhs.net

Quality services, better health

