

# Medicines Optimisation news headlines

September 2014

## 1. Top Tips:

- Prescribe **Colofac for mebeverine**

The Drug Tariff price for standard mebeverine 135mg tablets has risen to £15.69 for a pack of 100. It appears unlikely that this will fall significantly in the near future.

Colofac brand of mebeverine costs £7.52 for 100 tablets (£6.77 for 30 days treatment), providing a potential annual saving of £67,000. For those practices with ScriptSwitch it is now offered as a possible switch.

Should a twice daily dosage be preferred, Colofac m/r 200mg capsules can be prescribed either as Colofac brand or as generic mebeverine m/r at a cost of £6.92 for 30 days treatment.

We have been assured that increased supplies of Colofac have been made available to the standard wholesalers to cater for the rise in demand.

- Prescribe **Galantamine m/r as Luventa XL**

Luventa XL is a new brand of galantamine modified-release that will be launched in October 2014. The price is significantly lower than the Drug Tariff price for generic galantamine and has been assured for a period of 5 years.

	Luventa XL	Galantamine m/r as generic or Reminyl brand (Drug Tariff Oct14)
8mg capsule	£25.42	£51.88
16mg capsule	£31.80	£64.90
24mg capsule	£39.10	£79.80

At current levels of prescribing this would provide a possible saving of over £92,000 per annum and would guarantee that your patients receive consistent treatment by receiving the same brand each time their prescription is dispensed. The Medicines Management Team are able to help with switching prescriptions.

## 2. Dexamethasone injection has changed

Dexamethasone 4mg in 1ml injection has been reformulated and is now presented as a 3.8mg in 1 ml solution that must be stored in the fridge. See the [SPC](#) for full details.

### 3. Gonadorelin analogues and Decapeptyl® 22.5mg

Drug name	Goserelin (Zoladex®) <a href="#">SPC 3.6mg</a> <a href="#">SPC 10.8mg</a>	Leuprorelin (Prostap®) <a href="#">SPC 3.75mg</a> <a href="#">SPC 11.25mg</a>	Triptorelin (Decapeptyl®) <a href="#">SPC 3mg</a> <a href="#">SPC 11.25mg</a> <a href="#">*SPC 22.5mg</a>
Licensed indications common to all preparations (full details in SPC)	Prostate cancer *Endometriosis		
Additional licensed indications	Breast cancer Uterine fibroids Assisted reproduction	-	Uterine fibroids
Route of administration	S/C implant	S/C or IM injection	IM injection
One month treatment	3.6mg <b>£65.00</b>	3.75mg <b>£75.24</b>	3mg <b>£69.00</b>
3 months treatment	10.8mg <b>£235.00</b>	11.25mg <b>£225.72</b>	11.25mg <b>£207.00</b>
6 months treatment	-	-	22.5mg <b>£414.00</b>

\* Decapeptyl® 22.5mg is not licensed for endometriosis

The 22.5mg strength of Decapeptyl® contains triptorelin pamoate rather than the acetate salt that is found in the lower strengths but it has been established that the two salts are bioequivalent.

Following assessment of the individual products the DPC did not find any difference in clinical outcomes and made the following recommendation:

*When monthly use is required (e.g. for gynae indications such as uterine fibroids), goserelin is the most cost-effective product. For most other indications triptorelin (as Decapeptyl SR) is a cost effective choice, and is available as a 3-monthly and 6-monthly injection.*

6-monthly injection of Decapeptyl SR does not have a direct financial advantage over 3-monthly injection, but for patients who are stable and requiring long term treatment it could reduce the number of primary care appointments.

### 4. Nalmefene for reduction of problem drinking

Use of nalmefene is not currently supported by the [DPC](#). This position will be reviewed when final NICE guidance is published in November.

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