

Medicines

Optimisation news headlines

December 2015

Dabigatran Pricing Update

The rebate scheme which was in force for dabigatran has now been terminated by the manufacturers. List prices have been reduced across all strengths with effect from 1st January 2016 to £51.00 for a 60 capsule pack and £8.50 for 10 capsule a pack (equivalent to £1.70 per day). The next least expensive NOAC is rivaroxaban at £1.80 per day.

Oral Nutritional Supplement (ONS) requests from nursing homes

A request form has been made available to aid nursing home staff in providing sufficient background information when asking for ONS. This has been sent out to all care homes but can also be downloaded from the [CCG website](#).

ONS should only be prescribed on receipt of a correctly completed request form to enable a full assessment of need.

LBF 1ml and 2ml replacing Cavilon 1ml and 3ml

Change to the Wound Formulary

Following local trials of these brands of barrier film foam applicator the recommended first line product has been changed from Cavilon to LBF. LBF was found to be equally effective but carries a much lower price. It is available in two sizes; 1ml and 2ml. These sizes were felt to be large enough for the vast majority of situations.

	5 x 1ml	5 x 2ml	5 x 3ml
Cavilon	£5.00		£8.03
LBF	£3.78	£4.99	

Ciclosporin eye drops (Ikervis[®])

Under [NICE TA369](#) that was published this month, ciclosporin is recommended as an option for treating severe keratitis in adult patients with dry eye disease that has not improved despite treatment with tear substitutes. It is administered as an eye drop of 1mg/ml once daily at bedtime. An unlicensed preparation of ciclosporin eye drops has been used within specialist ophthalmic services for a number of years but a licensed product, Ikervis[®], has recently become available. Consequently the local recommendation is that it should now be classified as an amber drug; i.e. specialist initiation or recommendation but may be continued in primary care.

NB: Ciclosporin eye ointment is not available as a licensed product and this remains a red drug.

Palliative Care Handbook

The 'Green Book' has now been made available as an eBook. It can be [downloaded](#) from the Wessex Deanery website for your android or iPhones, tablets, Macs and Windows 10 laptops and PCs. No login is required.



Stalevo® to Sastravi® switch.

We have been informed by University Hospital Southampton that they will be changing to Sastravi®, a brand of the co-careldopa and entacapone combination that carries a lower acquisition cost. This will be dispensed for any new patients, and also for patients admitted on Stalevo®.

If UHS patients have any concerns about this change they can call the Medicines Helpline on: 023 8120 6907.

Botulinum Toxin

We have been asked to remind everyone of the policy on botulinum toxin.

Botulinum injections are indicated for a range of licensed neurological conditions according to the following policy:

Botulinum Toxin, Licensed Indications, Routinely Commissioned				
	Dysport	Botox	Xeomin	NeuroBloc
Blepharospasm	√	√	√	
Cervical dystonias	√	√	√	√
Focal spasticity	√ (arm & foot)	√ (foot & post stroke wrist/hand)	√ (post stroke arm)	
Hemifacial spasm	√	√		
Hyperhidrosis (severe)		√		
Migraine prophylaxis		√		
Neurogenic detrusor over-activity		√		
Incontinence due to subcervical spinal cord injury or multiple sclerosis		√		

There are also some circumstances where botulinum is administered off-label, the full list can be found on the [West Hampshire CCG website](#).

To assess patients for botulinum injection and the associated physiotherapy to maximise benefit, there is a clinic run at the Western by Solent Healthcare. The CCG has agreed with the IFR team and Solent Healthcare that for the spasticity clinic and also for vocational rehab or transition, the trust will take up to 10 patients per quarter. To avoid the previous significant delays for patients, the IFR team will be contacted for permission by Solent only if the volume of activity goes above this number. Please note that Solent should take referrals under this system irrespective of the age of the patient.

Catherine McLean
Interface Pharmacist, Medicines Management
catherine.mclean2@nhs.net
023 8062 7466

Dr Emma Harris
Clinical Director, Medicines Management
emma.harris25@nhs.net

Quality services, better health

