

Medicines

Optimisation news headlines

March/April 2018

App: Guidelines for Antibiotic Prescribing in the Community 2014

This App should no longer be used.

The original app can no longer be supported by current software and cannot be updated. This also means that the original information may no longer be displayed correctly on your mobile device and should not be used.

The Guidelines for Antibiotic Prescribing in the Community have now been updated to the 2018 version and cover antibiotic recommendations within the South Central Antimicrobial Network (SCAN) area. This guidance will shortly be available in the form of an e-book that can be downloaded to your mobile device(s). There will be a facility to search the book to take you directly to the section or drug that you require and it will automatically be updated on a quarterly basis.

MHRA Safety Update – April 2018

Valproate

[Updated guidance](#) issued in April states that medicines containing valproate must no longer be used in women or girls of childbearing potential unless a Pregnancy Prevention Programme is in place. All women and girls (and their parent, caregiver, or responsible person, if necessary) must be fully informed of the risks and the need to avoid exposure to valproate medicines in pregnancy. Your Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist and Technician will be ready to support the practice to action this advice once the recommended national resources are available.

Access to Shared Care Guidance

For medicines that are specialist initiated or recommended but suitable for continuation in primary care the Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester District Prescribing Committee (DPC) may decide to develop a shared care guideline. The guidelines are intended to support the transfer of prescribing responsibility between specialist and GP and act as an information resource to support clinicians. They do not replace the need for good communication between specialist and GP about sharing care for an individual patient.

The DPC agreed that specialists will not routinely send paper copies of shared care guidelines to GPs for each patient. Individual guidelines are available on the West Hampshire CCG [website](#) and additionally via the DXS system. When a 'shared care' drug is accessed whilst in a patient consultation, the shared care guideline can be viewed by clicking on the amber coloured button as highlighted by DXS. The document will automatically populate with the patient's details and can be saved to the individual clinical record. Shared care guidelines can also be viewed through DXS in the documents section by clicking on medicines management and then guidance.

Shared care guidance memantine and lithium is hosted on the Southern Health FT website in the [medicines management](#) category.



Flivasorb to Vliwasorb Pro

As you may already be aware, there has been an update to the wound formulary. Flivasorb absorbent dressings have been discontinued, and replaced by Vliwasorb Pro which has a greater capacity for absorption of exudate. The dressings are made by the same company and have the same pricing structure, although Vliwasorb Pro sizes are slightly larger. The change has been agreed through the wound formulary sub-group of the District Prescribing Committee. All sizes are now available on both Emis and SystmOne clinical systems and have been replaced on ONPOS.

IVF

GPs are sometimes approached to arrange tests or to prescribe the required medicines for patients who are undergoing IVF. The [Priorities Committee statement](#) on assisted conception as shown below may be helpful when responding to such requests:

- Patients/couples requesting specialist infertility treatment and meeting the eligibility criteria must be referred for specialist infertility treatment(s) by an NHS Consultant Gynaecologist using the standard referral form available from the CCG Commissioners.
- The CCG Commissioners will confirm funding, and advise the patients' managing clinician of the preferred provider of their infertility treatment. NB: NHS-funded specialist assisted conception services are commissioned only from approved providers.
- The NHS-funded specialist fertility unit providing the care will be solely responsible for initial consultation; treatment planning; counselling/advising patients; treatment consent; all drugs; egg collection; semen analysis; embryo transfer; pregnancy test(s); all consumables; pathology tests; scans; and the HFEA fee.
- All fertility drugs, such as anti-oestrogens, (eg clomiphene citrate), gonadotrophins, (including gonadorelin analogues), and progestogens, should be prescribed only by the treating consultant. GPs are advised not to prescribe any drugs for fertility.
- There are existing, related commissioning policies specific to addressing PGD and gamete storage which CCGs may wish to refer to in conjunction with this policy recommendation.

The Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester District Prescribing Committee advice to GPs is that the medicines required should be seen as an integral part of the overall procedure and that prescribing responsibility and associated monitoring requirements should remain with the specialist. This applies whether the procedure is being funded by the NHS or privately.

The one exception is **clomifene**, which local committees have deemed suitable for shared care. Shared care guidance has recently been agreed to enable transfer of care once a patient has been fully assessed and has had their dose titrated by the specialists and covers the standard dosing regimen. Occasionally a higher dose or prolonged treatment may be indicated but this should only be carried out by the fertility centre and not under shared care. [Clomifene](#) shared care guidance is now available on the West Hampshire CCG website.

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