



Prescribing Information

from the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint
Prescribing Committee

**December
2017/January 2018
Number 68**

A summary of the Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) key recommendations¹ following the 6th December 2017 meeting is provided below. The JPC papers from the meeting will be available shortly on the **GP Ref website** [http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/referrals/bedfordshire-and-luton-joint-prescribing-committee-\(jpc\).aspx](http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/referrals/bedfordshire-and-luton-joint-prescribing-committee-(jpc).aspx).

BULLETIN / PAPER	RECOMMENDATIONS / INFORMATION
PRIMARY CARE OR INTERFACE PRESCRIBING ISSUES	
FreeStyle Libre® "Current position unchanged"	No GP prescribing is currently recommended pending discussions with diabetes specialists (children & adults) in the East of England. (See link below):- http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/media/162817/advguid_glucosemonitoringsystem_bulletin256.pdf
Diabetic Meters and Testing Strips Review "Updated Advice"	The JPC had previously made recommendations on the choice of Formulary Blood Glucose Meter and Testing Strips. The current review updated this information. The JPC agreed:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the use of the following 8 meters and testing strips – Mylife Pura; TRUEresult; GlucoRx Nexus; GlucoMen Areo; TEE2; WaveSense JAZZ; SD Codefree and Finetest Lite. • That the criteria for the use of the dual meter (glucose and ketones) and selection of meters for patients with special needs (e.g. poor sight) should be subject to local (CCG) discussion and decision-making including the use, if necessary, of a 'task and finish group' to assist in the communication and implementation of any new formulary choices to prescribers in primary care and the specialist service.
Community Antimicrobial Guidelines "Updated Guidelines approved"	The Community Antimicrobial Guidelines have been updated to include new recommendations from Public Health England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). It was noted that NICE had been commissioned by the Department of Health to review and produce updates to the antimicrobial guidelines on a regular basis over the next 2/3 years. The JPC discussed the implications of this with respect to the production of paper copies of the guidelines. It was agreed that 'hard, booklet' copies of the guideline should continue to be printed after major updates (e.g. every couple of years or more frequently if necessary). In between times, updated guidelines (with information on the changes made) will be emailed directly to the practices for local printing as necessary. The updated guidelines, including information on the major updates made (see P6 of the Guidelines) have been included in the Newsletter email. NB - If practices wish to generate an A5 (preferred) format, they will need to set their printers up to do this. The updated guidelines will shortly be available on GP Ref.
Shared (and Transfer) of Care Guideline for the Management of	Following wide consultation with the BCCG Localities (including GPs), BCCG has agreed to change the management of dementia, transferring more care to GPs. The Shared (and Transfer) of Care Guideline for the management of dementia was supported by the Committee and replaces the current Shared Care Guideline.

¹ The recommendations have been ratified by BCCG but are interim and awaiting formal ratification by LCCG Clinical Commissioning Committee

<p>Dementia (BCCG ONLY). <i>“Updated Guideline approved”</i></p>	
<p>Melatonin Shared Care Guideline <i>“New Guideline Approved”</i></p>	<p>The JPC approved an updated version of this guideline. (See link below) http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/media/165058/sharedcare_melatonin_sc8_final.pdf</p>
<p>Shared Care Guideline (SCG) – Riluzole <i>“Updated Guideline Approved”</i></p>	<p>The JPC approved an updated version of this guideline.</p>
<p>Opicapone for the treatment of Parkinson’s Disease <i>“Approved for use as an alternative to entacapone in patients who do not respond or are intolerant”</i></p>	<p>The JPC supported the following recommendations:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of opicapone is supported as an adjunctive treatment to levodopa/dopa-decarboxylase inhibitor therapy in adults with Parkinson's disease and end-of-dose motor fluctuations who cannot be stabilised on those combinations. • It should be used as a second line agent for those patients who do not respond to or tolerate entacapone. • Opicapone treatment must be initiated by a Neurologist who specialises in Parkinson’s Disease and may be continued by the GP. • An audit of patient outcomes should be presented to the JPC in 12 month’s time.
<p>Methotrexate use in Paediatric Patients <i>“No GP Prescribing”</i></p>	<p>The JPC agreed to continue to support no GP prescribing of methotrexate in paediatric patients.</p>
<p>Wound Care Formulary Update <i>“Updates approved”</i></p>	<p>The JPC considered the output from the Bedfordshire and Luton Wound Care Formulary Group and agreed to support:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formulary proposal to change from Flivasorb and Flivasorb Adhesive to KerraMax Care and KerraMax Care adhesive. While this is a slightly more expensive product, it is likely to be cost neutral overall, due to a reduction in dressing changes and nurse time required. • The Incontinence dermatitis treatment protocol. • The Debrisoft pathway.
<p>Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts <i>“Important safety updates”</i></p>	<p>The MHRA Drug Safety Updates for October and November 2017 were noted by the Committee for information:-</p> <p>October 2017, Drug Safety Update:- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655127/DSU-Oct-pdf.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methylprednisolone injectable medicine containing lactose (Solu-Medrone 40 mg): do not use in patients with cows’ milk allergy. • Gabapentin (Neurontin): risk of severe respiratory depression. • Isotretinoin (Roaccutane): rare reports of erectile dysfunction and decreased libido. • Clozapine: reminder of potentially fatal risk of intestinal obstruction, faecal impaction, and paralytic ileus. <p>November 2017, Drug Safety Update:- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662330/DSU-Nov-pdf.pdf</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentamicin: potential for histamine-related adverse drug reactions with some batches. • Quinine: reminder of dose-dependent QT-prolonging effects; updated interactions. • Oral tacrolimus products: reminder to prescribe and dispense by brand name only. • Support our second social media campaign for suspected adverse drug reactions. • Antiepileptic drugs: updated advice on switching between different manufacturers' products. • Updates to Public Health England's Green Book chapter on live attenuated vaccines.
<p>SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING/COMMISSIONING ISSUES</p>	
<p>Bisphosphate Use in Early Breast Cancer</p>	<p>The JPC has recommended that bisphosphates can be used in early breast cancer to prevent disease recurrence (patient criteria for treatment have been agreed with Specialists).</p> <p>The CCGs have taken a slightly different approach to the choice of bisphosphonate:- BCCG has recommended the use of zoledronic acid injection (4mg every 6 months), administered in secondary care, with patients offered oral ibandronic acid (50 mg daily) as an alternative in patients who are not suitable for zoledronic acid. (Specialist to initiate and GP to continue).</p> <p>LCCG has recommended oral ibandronic acid as first line choice with zoledronic acid second line. (Dosages and recommended prescribing responsibilities are as outlined above.)</p> <p>The recommended duration of therapy is 3 years for either treatment.</p> <p>Recommendations will be reviewed when NICE issues it's Early Breast Cancer Guideline (due July 2018).</p>
<p>Psoriasis Treatment Pathway "Pathway updated"</p>	<p>The Psoriasis Treatment Pathway has been updated to include Dimethyl fumarate (Skilarence®) which replaces Fumaderm in the pathway and to incorporate recommendations from the British Association of Dermatologists.</p>
<p>Additional Papers/issues considered by the Committee</p>	
<p>Ulipristal for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding</p>	<p>The Priorities Forum Statement on Heavy Menstrual Bleeding has been updated and supersedes the JPC Bulletin on ulipristal.</p> <p>Link to the BCCG Statement</p> <p>http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Guidance-26-Heavy-Menstrual-Bleeding-BD-All.pdf</p> <p>Link to the LCCG Statement</p> <p>https://www.lutonccg.nhs.uk/page/?id=4135</p>
<p>NICE Guidance</p> <p>The Committee noted the following CCG Commissioned Technology Appraisal Guidance for implementation:-</p> <p>Tofacitinib for moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis Technology appraisal guidance [TA480] Published date: 11 October 2017 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta480</p> <p>Sarilumab for moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis Technology appraisal guidance [TA485] Published date: 01 November 2017. https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta485</p> <p>Aflibercept for treating choroidal neovascularisation</p>	

Technology appraisal guidance [TA486] Published date: 01 November 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta486>.

March 2018 JPC Meeting – Potential items for consideration:-

- Freestyle Libre Update®
- Asthma Guidelines (Revision of local guidelines as a result of the publication of the recent updated NICE Guideline)
- Vitamin D Pathway (Paediatric)
- ADHD Shared Care Guideline (revised)
- Ophthalmology Intravitreal Injection Pathway
- Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathway Update

If you would like to be included in the Consultation relating to any of the above agenda items, please contact either Jacqueline.clayton@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk or sandra.mcgroarty@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk

GP Ref Update:

The GP Ref website is proving more popular with users, with around 70,000 hits recorded last year. In order to increase usage further, the JPC page layout has been revamped to make it easier to find the information you are looking for. In addition, a new section has been added called “Highlights from the newsletter” to allow users to quickly see what new guidance and recommendations were agreed at the most recent JPC meeting. This section will be updated after every JPC meeting. We would welcome your feedback on the new layout – email comments / suggestions to Sandra.mcgroarty@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk

Use of Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx

Following on from discussions with GPs around communication of JPC advice, BCCG and LCCG are now adding messages to Scriptswitch and Optimise Rx to highlight when JPC guidance is available and including a hyperlink to the GP Ref website.

Comments are always welcome to Jacqueline.clayton@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk and sandra.mcgroarty@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk