



Prescribing Information

from the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint
Prescribing Committee

July 2018
Number 71

A summary of the Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) key recommendations¹ following the 20th June 2018 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	
<p>FreeStyle Libre (Flash Glucose Scanning (FGS)) "No GP Prescribing" "BCCG Commissioning Position confirmed"</p>	<p>As previously advised (April 2018), the JPC endorsed a slightly modified version of the East of England Priorities Advisory Committee (EoEPAC) recommendations and criteria for use of FreeStyle Libre in children, young people and adults. (Detailed information will be made available on GP ref shortly). The CCGs Commissioning position with respect to the recommendations and supply of FreeStyle Libre are as follows:-</p> <p>BCCG - has agreed to fund (commencing 1st August 2018) in line with the JPC recommendations and criteria approved at the April 2018 meeting up to a specified maximum number of patients per annum agreed with each Trust via a CCG approval (Blueteq) process. Supply of the device/sensors will undertaken by the Specialised Diabetes Teams at Bedford Hospital and the Luton & Dunstable Hospital with no GP prescribing, no additional activity charges and subject to audit. For patients under the care of other Trusts, GPs are asked to contact the BCCG Medicines Optimisation Team for advice.</p> <p>LCCG – TBC - this information will be advised to Practices, when available, by LCCG.</p>
<p>Liothyronine "Updated Commissioning Position Statement amended"</p>	<p>At the April JPC meeting, the Committee agreed to support the East of England Priorities Advisory Committee (EoEPAC) statement and recommendations with the caveat that there would be local discussion relating to the process to ensure funding of recommendation 2(b) and agreement over who should initiate, who should continue prescribing and the criteria that should be met for initiation and continuation for patients that fall into recommendation (3).</p> <p>The CCGs have now discussed recommendations 2(b) and 3 and the JPC was asked (and agreed) to support the following amended recommendations:-</p> <p>2 (b). In rare cases of levothyroxine induced liver injury, long term liothyronine prescribing may be supported. Initiation and ongoing prescribing and supply should remain in secondary care under the supervision of a secondary care specialist.</p> <p>3. Initiation and prescribing of liothyronine for patients on levothyroxine who continue to suffer with symptoms despite adequate biochemical correction should remain in secondary care under the supervision of an accredited endocrinologist. The CCGs will not accept any additional activity charges relating to the ongoing supply of the drug.</p>
<p>Low Molecular Weight Heparin (Intermediate Risk Patients) Shared Care Guideline</p>	<p>The shared care guideline (SCG) has been updated to reflect updated national guidance and discussions with Bedford Hospital. The main updates are to the medicines information section and the Risk Assessment Tool (updated in line with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists {RCOG} and Bedford Hospital Trust Guidelines).</p>

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

<p>Review (Bedford Hospital Trust only) <i>“Updated SCG approved”</i></p>	
<p>Vitamin D Guideline (Paediatric) <i>“New Guideline approved”</i></p>	<p>A joint Bedfordshire and Luton Paediatric treatment pathway for the use of vitamin D has been developed and agreed as a means of standardising practice in relation to the management of simple vitamin D deficiency including agreed vitamin D reference ranges, treatment durations, general recommendations and criteria. This guideline has been agreed across all care sectors in Bedfordshire and Luton.</p>
<p>Guideline for Management of Paediatric Wheeze and Asthma in Children aged 16 and under. <i>“New Guideline approved – anticipated availability on GP ref - late August”</i></p>	<p>The new guideline, which was discussed and approved by the JPC, is divided into four main sections:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheeze and Suspected Asthma in Children Under 5 years • Asthma Diagnosis and Management in Children aged 5-16 years. • Acute Asthma Management in Children Aged 5-16 years • Inhaler Choices/ Spacer Devices and dosage information <p>The JPC also supported the Primary Care Acute Medication Chart, the use of which was optional for GPs, but may be helpful as a summary of actions undertaken in the surgery by different clinicians.</p>
<p>Adult ADHD Shared Care Guideline. <i>“Updated SCG approved for both BCCG and LCCG use”</i></p>	<p>NICE has issued an updated Guideline (NICE Guideline 87: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management) in March 2018. The majority of the changes to the shared care guideline (SCG) are as a result of updates to reflect the new NICE Guideline. The original SCG applied to BCCG only, however, the updated SCG applies to both BCCG and LCCG. ELFT Medicines Management Committee has also ratified the guideline (July 2018).</p>
<p>Ketamine Shared Care Guideline <i>“Updated SCG approved”</i></p>	<p>The Ketamine Shared Care Guideline (SCG) was approved in principle in September 2017, subject to some amendments. Since the original version was circulated, there had been a large number of amendments and therefore the revised document came to the JPC for approval and was supported. Although approved for use in the adult palliative care setting, ketamine is not an anticipatory medicine and therefore is not included in the ‘Palliative Care Guideline on End of Life Anticipatory Medicines’ nor the list of medicines that Community Pharmacists should hold as part of the enhanced service commissioned by the CCGs.</p>
<p>Insulin glargine 300 units/ml (Toujeo®) <i>“Not routinely recommended. For Specialist Diabetes Service Initiation with GP to continue prescribing”</i></p>	<p>The JPC agreed to support the East of England Priorities Advisory Committee bulletin with locally modified recommendations. Insulin glargine 300 units/ml (Toujeo®) is not recommended for routine use in either type 1 or type 2 diabetes in primary and secondary care due to current patient safety concerns with the use of high strength insulins. It may be of benefit in some very specific patients groups (see bulletin on GPref for details). Insulin glargine 300 units/ml (Toujeo®)p must be initiated by the Specialist Diabetes Service. GPs may take over prescribing when the patient’s glucose control is stable (minimum of 3 months after initiation by the Specialist Diabetes Service). <i>Please refer to the full bulletin for a full list of recommendations (available on GP ref website).</i></p>
<p>Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts <i>“Important safety updates”</i></p>	<p>The MHRA Drug Safety Update for May 2018 was noted by the Committee for information. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710841/DSU-May-PDF.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valproate medicines (Epilim ▼ , Depakote ▼): Pregnancy Prevention Programme materials online. • Braltus (tiotropium): risk of inhalation of capsule if placed in the mouthpiece of the inhaler. • Letters sent to healthcare professionals in April 2018.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Device Alerts issued in April 2018; recent alert about Accu-Chek blood glucose monitoring strips.
SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING/COMMISSIONING ISSUES	
Psoriatic Arthritis Pathway "Pathway Updated"	This pathway has been updated to allow a 'switch' to a Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) inhibitor, as a second line agent following the use of secukinumab as a first line drug choice.
Additional Papers/issues considered by the Committee for information	
2017/18 JPC Annual Report	The report was ratified by the JPC and can be accessed via the following hyperlink:- http://www.qpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/media/203065/bedslutonjpc_annualreport2017_18.pdf
Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMOC) Update	The second RMOC briefing paper on adalimumab came to the JPC for information and can be accessed via the following hyperlink:- www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/rmoc-briefing-paper-on-adalimumab-no-2/
<p>NICE Guidance issued/updated - CCG Commissioned and where there was required action from the JPC:</p> <p>Guselkumab for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis Technology appraisal guidance [TA521] Published date: 13 June 2018 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta521 The JPC Psoriasis Pathway will be updated to include Guselkumab.</p> <p>Lyme disease, NICE guideline [NG95] Published date: April 2018. https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng95 The Bedfordshire and Luton Community Antimicrobial Guidelines has been updated to include 'signposting' to the NICE Guideline with respect to Lyme disease.</p>	
<p>Forthcoming JPC Meetings – Potential items for consideration:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Care (Non Cancer) Chronic Pain Guidelines Vitamin D Guidelines (Adult) Guanfacine Shared Care Guidelines Psoriasis Pathway Review BAD Guidelines Camouflage Creams <p>If you would like to be included in the Consultation relating to any of the above agenda items, please contact either Jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net or sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net</p>	

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@nhs.net

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@nhs.net and sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net
Please note the new email contact details.