

## Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) Newsletter December 2020, Number 82

Summary of Key Recommendations – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 JPC meeting

(For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see separate  
Formulary Newsletter- [Click here](#))

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Luton Clinical Commissioning Group

### \*\*\*New BLMK Medicines Management Team Website hosting JPC Documents\*\*\*

**Exciting News!** We are delighted to announce, as we move towards more joined up working, that the BLMK Medicines Management Team has a new website:-

<https://medicines.blmkccg.nhs.uk/>

All JPC papers (e.g. bulletins, pathways, guidelines) can be found on the new website and unless otherwise stated, the new/updated documents referred to within the Newsletter will shortly be available on this website. The GPref website and Microguide have been retired, will not be updated and should not be used.

The new website has a great search function, is very dynamic and under our control, therefore we really would welcome feedback from users on a continuous basis of ways in which we can make it even more useful. Please contact either [Samantha.scholes@nhs.net](mailto:Samantha.scholes@nhs.net) (Website Manager) or [Sandra.McGroarty@nhs.net](mailto:Sandra.McGroarty@nhs.net) (Pharmacist Clinical Lead for Website) if you have any feedback.

## PRIMARY CARE OR INTERFACE PRESCRIBING ISSUES

### JPC BULLETINS/FACT SHEETS

#### Denosumab – Information for GPs

This information has been updated in response to :-

- [Updated MHRA Guidance \(August 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 rapid guideline: rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders](#)  
[Rapid Covid 19 Guidance.](#)

UPDATED

This updated version includes specific information regarding the duration of treatment and emphasises the following key points:-

1. **DO NOT STOP or DELAY ongoing treatment with denosumab without a specialist review (due to increased risk of multiple vertebral fractures reported)**
2. **GPs should request a DXA after 3-5 years of treatment, specifying duration of treatment so far and any changes in risk factors since treatment started.**
3. **Specialist advice regarding duration of treatment will be provided in the DXA report or alternatively advice is available via 'Advice and Guidance'.**

[Click here](#) to access the updated guidance

The [Primary Care Osteoporosis Treatment Guidelines](#) will also be updated to include the warnings outlined above.

The CCG Medicines Optimisation teams have updated the messages on Scriptswich and Optimise Rx to reflect the updated advice. It is recommended that Practices audit their Denosumab patients (current and historic) in light of the new MHRA Guidance.

## TREATMENT / PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

### NHSE Statin Intolerance Pathway and Summary of National Guidance on Lipids

NEW

NHS England and the Accelerated Access Collaborative have produced both a [Summary of National Guidance for Lipid Management for Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD](#) and a [Pathway for the management of Statin Intolerance for patients with CVD risk](#) that has been endorsed by NICE. The guidance and pathway promotes the use of higher intensity statins such as atorvastatin and rosuvastatin in preference to lower intensity statins such as pravastatin and fluvastatin.

The JPC agreed to support the two documents outlined above.

## SHARED CARE GUIDELINES

### Glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP1) agonist Shared Care Guideline (SCG) Review

UPDATED

The GLP1 agonist SCG has been updated to include Semaglutide Oral (Rybelsus®) and the Formulary Review of GLP1 agonists – **See Formulary Newsletter for details.**

There has also been some general updating to the SCG including updates to Drug Fact sheets and removal of older references.

## SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

### Severe Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Biologics Pathway Review

UPDATED

The Committee agreed to support an [updated RA Biologics Pathway](#) which:-

- Included the addition of Upadacitinib in accordance with [NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance 665](#)
- Addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> line Biologic therapy option

### Subcutaneous (s/c) Infliximab (Biosimilar)

NEW

The JPC agreed to support the introduction of s/c infliximab as a temporary addition to the Joint Medicines Formulary until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to assist the Bedfordshire Hospitals Foundation Trust in reducing pressure on hospital attendance during the Covid 19 pandemic (Winter period). This decision will be reviewed at the March 2021 JPC meeting.

## NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED

The following NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (CCG Commissioned) have been published (17<sup>th</sup> September -25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 inclusive):-

Naldemedine for treating opioid-induced constipation, Technology appraisal guidance [TA651] Published date: 30 September 2020 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta651> - **Specialist initiation and GP to continue prescribing.**

Galcanezumab for preventing migraine, Technology appraisal guidance [TA659] Published date: 18 November 2020, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta659> - **Specialist only prescribing.**

Both medicines have been added to the Joint formulary.

#### **NICE Guidelines :-**

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since September 2020 and these are all available on the main [NICE website](#)

#### **NICE COVID-19 Rapid Reviews/Information**

The Committee noted that NICE have continued to issue/update a series of covid 19 rapid reviews/information:- this information can be accessed from the NICE website [click here](#)

## SAFETY UPDATE

### **Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts**

The MHRA Drug Safety Updates for September, October and November 2020 were noted by the Committee for information and action.

#### [September DSU](#)

- Opioids: risk of dependence and addiction

The current Primary Care Pain Guidelines reflect this information and advise on the risk of opioid dependence

- Transdermal fentanyl patches for non-cancer pain: do not use in opioid-naive patients

The current Primary Care Pain Guidelines do not support use of Fentanyl Patch for non-cancer pain.

- Methotrexate once-weekly for autoimmune diseases: new measures to reduce risk of fatal overdose due to inadvertent daily instead of weekly dosing.

Advice to include day of the week on prescription to be circulated to practices. Information on once weekly dosing is also contained within the Methotrexate Shared Care Guidelines

- Insulins (all types): risk of cutaneous amyloidosis at injection site

#### [October DSU](#)

- 5-fluorouracil (intravenous), capecitabine, tegafur: DPD testing recommended before initiation to identify patients at increased risk of severe and fatal toxicity
- Niraparib (Zejula ▼): reports of severe hypertension and posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES), particularly in early treatment
- Dolutegravir (Tivicay ▼, Triumeq ▼, Juluca ▼): updated advice on increased risk of neural tube defects
- Warfarin and other anticoagulants: monitoring of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Every report counts: report suspected adverse drug reactions and take part in #MedSafetyWeek (2–8 November 2020)

#### [November 2020](#)

- Modafinil (Provigil): increased risk of congenital malformations if used during pregnancy
- Pirfenidone (Esbriet): risk of serious liver injury, and updated advice on liver function testing
- Ferric carboxymaltose (Ferinject ▼): risk of symptomatic hypophosphataemia leading to osteomalacia and fractures
- Bupropion (Zyban): risk of serotonin syndrome with use with other serotonergic drugs
- Isotretinoin (Roaccutane ▼): contribute to expert review

## Additional Papers / issues considered by the Committee

### Flash Glucose Monitoring Update

This paper came to the JPC to provide an update on changes to the criteria for prescribing of Flash Glucose Monitoring and information relating to the introduction of a new product.

- The national criteria for prescribing of Flash Glucose Monitoring have been extended to include:- People with Type 1 diabetes or insulin treated Type 2 diabetes who are living with a learning disability and recorded on their GP Learning Disability register.
- The current branded product of Flash Glucose Monitoring – FreeStyle Libre sensors will gradually be replaced by FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors which cost the same. The difference between the two products is that FreeStyle Libre 2 has an audible alarm which indicates hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia. Patients using the FreeStyle Libre reader will require a new reader, but patients using the app will be able to continue using this with the FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors. The funding criteria for FreeStyle Libre 2 is the same as for FreeStyle Libre. Both sensors are included in the November 2020 Drug Tariff.

### SystemOne 'Red' Drugs

It has come to our attention that there has been some confusion relating to 'red drug' status on SystemOne. All high risk medicines (e.g. high-strength insulins) are listed in SystemOne in **red type**. This should not be confused with 'red' Joint Medicines Formulary status. When a prescriber 'clicks through' from the SystemOne drug selection list for a high risk medicine, the correct Joint Medicines Formulary status will be clear e.g. high-strength insulin – listed in red type on the SystemOne medicine selection list, but amber (GPs can prescribe after specialist initiation) in the Joint Medicines Formulary.

### Risk Sharing Policy

BCCG has had a Risk Sharing Policy available for many years. The wording of the policy was previously agreed by the JPC and remains unchanged. The Committee ratified the Policy on behalf of both Bedfordshire and Luton CCGs, while Milton Keynes Prescribing Advisory Group (MKPAG) ratified the same policy on behalf of Milton Keynes CCG. The Policy therefore now applies across BLMK.

## Forthcoming 2021 JPC Meetings

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Items to be discussed (provisionally) are: Antimicrobial Guideline Update – human, animal and insect bites, and onychomycosis policy/review; Osteoporosis Treatment Guidelines Update; DEKA vitamins for CF; review of the decision regarding subcutaneous infliximab; and PCSK-9 inhibitors – use outside NICE TA,

For further information on agenda items scheduled for meeting above and/or if you would like to be included in the consultation for these and/or future agenda items please contact the JPC medicines management team: [Jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net](mailto:Jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net) or [sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net)

## OTHER NEWS

### Use of Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx

To further enhance the communication of JPC advice to GPs, BCCG and LCCG medicine management Teams **are actively reviewing the messages on NetFormulary, Scriptswitch and Optimise Rx** to highlight when JPC guidance is available and including a hyperlink to the BLMK Medicines Management website.

Contact Us:-  [jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net](mailto:jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net) and [sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net)