

# Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) Newsletter July 2020, Number 80

Summary of Key Recommendations – 1<sup>st</sup> July 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

Unless otherwise stated, the new/updated documents referred to within the Newsletter will shortly be available on  
[GP Ref](#) and [Microguide](#) (also available as a Microguide App).

## PRIMARY CARE OR INTERFACE PRESCRIBING ISSUES

### TREATMENT / PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

#### Antimicrobial Guidelines

UPDATED

##### **Community Antimicrobial Guidelines Update:- Impetigo and Leg Ulcer sections only**

The impetigo and leg ulcers sections have been updated in line with the newly published NICE guidelines. The agreed changes are as follows:-

##### **Impetigo Section**

- Addition of hydrogen peroxide as a topical antiseptic to be used in localised non-bullous impetigo.
- Addition of topical Mupirocin as a treatment option to be used if fusidic acid resistance is suspected or confirmed.
- Reduce suggested oral antibiotic course length to 5 days.
- Addition of erythromycin as an oral treatment option in penicillin allergic patients who are pregnant.
- Clarification of when microbiological samples should be considered.

##### **Leg Ulcer section**

- To include the list of signs and symptoms of infected leg ulcer.
- Clarify when microbiological testing is appropriate.
- To give guidance on the initial choice of antibiotics. The NICE guidelines also include 2<sup>nd</sup> line choices (once sample results are back) and intravenous options for severe infections – these are not felt to be appropriate for empirical treatment in the community and are therefore not included in the updated guidelines.

#### Primary Care Management of Adult Female Urinary Incontinence and Prolapse - Pharmacological Management.

NEW

The pathway, which was initially agreed in February 2020, has been updated as follows:-

- First-line choice – Solifenacin.
- Second-line choice – Tolterodine M/R (Neditol®).
- The Second-line choice box amended to remove alternate options.
- Tolterodine I/R removed from the pathway.

[Click here for updated pathway.](#)

## Somatostatin Analogues:- Bulletin 217

UPDATED

The updated somatostatin analogue Bulletin 217, now provides information on each of the individual somatostatin analogues and provides clarity on the Commissioning responsibility for specific indications.

The major changes to the original bulletin relate to the inclusion of additional products/preparations that have become available and clarification of GP prescribing responsibilities.

[Click here for the updated bulletin](#)

## Prucalopride use in Men :- Bulletin 289

NEW

Prucalopride is currently recommended by NICE for use in women. Following the publication of the NICE Guidance, the marketing authorisation for prucalopride was extended to include use in men. A new medicine review bulletin summarising the evidence (clinical and cost-effectiveness) to support the use of prucalopride in men was reviewed and agreed by the committee.

The following recommendations were agreed:

- To approved the addition of Prucalopride to the Joint Formulary for use in men in accordance with the criteria set out in [NICE TA 211](#) for women.
- **Amber Prescribing status:** - Specialist to initiate treatment and GPs to continue prescribing.

[Click here for full bulletin](#)

## Linezolid Prescribing Arrangement Reminder

- Linezolid can be prescribed by GPs under the specialist direction of a Consultant Microbiologist only, in order to prevent a hospital admission.
- For all hospital initiated treatment, it should be considered 'hospital only' and the full course should be prescribed in secondary care and not transferred to GP.

[Click here](#) for Linezolid Fact sheet

## SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

### Unlicensed cannabis-based products for medicinal use (EoEPAC\* Guidance Statement) – Bulletin 268

UPDATED

Bulletin 268 has been updated to reflect the newly updated EoEPAC guidance statement.

This Guidance statement applies to **unlicensed cannabis based medicinal products only**. Refer to local policies on the use of licensed products Sativex, nabilone and Epidyolex.

[Click here](#) to access updated guidance

\*East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

## NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED (CCG Commissioned items only)

The following NICE TAs have been published / updated by NICE:- all specialist only

- Recombinant human parathyroid hormone for treating hypoparathyroidism (terminated appraisal), Technology appraisal [TA625] Published date: 04 March 2020  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta625>
- Fremanezumab for preventing migraine, Technology appraisal guidance [TA631] Published date: 03 June 2020. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta631>  
added to Joint Formulary – Specialist use only
- Ustekinumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis  
Technology appraisal guidance [TA633] Published date: 17 June 2020.  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta633>  
Link added to Joint Formulary - Specialist use only, JPC Ulcerative Colitis Treatment pathway to be updated in consultation with Specialists.
- Avatrombopag for treating thrombocytopenia in people with chronic liver disease needing a planned invasive procedure  
Technology appraisal guidance [TA626] Published date: 24 June 2020  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta626>  
Link added to Joint Formulary.

### NICE Guidelines :-

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since February 2020 and these are all available on the main [NICE website](#). One particular guideline worth highlighting is:-

- Heavy menstrual bleeding: assessment and management, NICE guideline [NG88] Published date: 14 March 2018 Last updated: 31 March 2020 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88>

**MHRA advice on ulipristal acetate (Esmya):** In March 2020, the [MHRA updated their advice on the use of ulipristal acetate \(Esmya\)](#) to say that healthcare professionals should contact patients currently taking Esmya for uterine fibroids as soon as possible and advise them to stop their treatment. The licence for Esmya has been suspended to protect public health while a safety review is conducted after a case of liver injury. The [recommendations in this guideline covering ulipristal acetate](#) have been amended or withdrawn accordingly.

Local Action taken: Ulipristal has been removed from the Joint Formulary.

### NICE COVID-19 Rapid Reviews/Information

The committee noted that NICE have issued 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 Update for March, April, May, June 2020 were noted by the Committee for information and action.

#### [MHRA Drug Safety Update – March 2020](#)

- Esmya (ulipristal acetate): suspension of the licence due to risk of serious liver injury
- Tofacitinib (Xeljanz ▼): new measures to minimise risk of venous thromboembolism and of serious and fatal infections
- Baricitinib (Olumiant ▼): risk of venous thromboembolism
- SGLT2 inhibitors: monitor ketones in blood during treatment interruption for surgical procedures or acute serious medical illness
- Benzodiazepines and opioids: reminder of risk of potentially fatal respiratory depression

#### [MHRA Drug Safety Update – April 2020](#)

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest guidance for medicines safety

#### [MHRA Drug Safety Update – May 2020](#)

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): new dedicated Yellow Card reporting site for medicines and medical devices
- Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme: temporary advice for management during coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Immunomodulatory drugs and pregnancy prevention: temporary advice for management during coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### [MHRA Drug Safety Update – June 2020](#)

- Cyproterone acetate: new advice to minimise risk of meningioma
- Direct- acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs); reminder of bleeding risk, including availability of reversal agents.

## Additional Papers / issues considered by the Committee

### JPC Annual Report

The 2019/20 JPC Annual Report was approved by the Committee.

[Click here](#) to access the report.

### COVID 19 Bulletins/Information

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Medicines Optimisation Team across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes produced a number of Rapid Bulletins to assist General Practice during this challenging time. The bulletins were produced in consultation with key clinicians and made available via the [GPref COVID 19 information page](#). These bulletins were also circulated to GP practices and Community Pharmacists and highlighted in the relevant COVID-19 daily communications.

In addition, relevant additional COVID 19 (medication related) resources were made available via GPref, circulated to GP practices and Community Pharmacists and highlighted in the relevant COVID-19 daily communications.

### High Flow Oxygen Therapy (with humidification)

To facilitate timely discharges during the COVID-19 pandemic, West Essex CCG (lead commissioner for the regional oxygen contract) have developed a Service Restriction Policy (SRP) for high flow oxygen therapy as an alternative to the IFR route. The SRP has been designed to identify the condition in which a patient would be suitable for high-flow oxygen therapy with humidification within the community regardless of disease and syndrome.

The respiratory teams at the Bedfordshire Hospitals Trust (both sites) have been consulted and support the adoption of the West Essex CCG SRP as timely discharges will be important in the event of a second peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The JPC supported the SRP. It was noted that high flow oxygen therapy system should only be initiated by the specialist respiratory service. The funding form should be completed before the patient starts on this modality. [Click here](#)

## Forthcoming 2020 JPC Meetings

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2020

Items to be discussed (provisionally) are: Drugs and Alcohol SCGs; Paediatric Asthma Guideline update, Tobramycin and colistin criteria for use; Sativex® Business case.

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 to NetFormulary/Scriptswitch and Optimise Rx** to highlight when JPC guidance is available and including a hyperlink to the GP Ref website.

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