

Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) Newsletter March 2020, Number 79

Summary of Key Recommendations – 26th February 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 Guideline

UPDATED

The Bedfordshire and Luton Community Antimicrobial Guideline has been updated as a result of NICE and Public Health England (PHE) Antimicrobial Guideline changes.

Summary of the main changes :-

- The Lower respiratory tract infection section has been removed and replaced with 'acute cough'.
- Antimicrobial choices for community acquired pneumonia have been updated in line with NICE guidelines ([CG 191](#) and [NG 138](#)).
- The section on Pertussis has been updated in line with most up to date PHE guidance, treatment options removed to ensure PHE guidance is used.
- The Acne vulgaris section has been revised in line with NICE CKS and Primary Care Dermatology (PCDS) advice.
- A new section on Rosacea acne has been included in line with NICE CKS and PCDS advice.
- The section on cellulitis and erysipelas has been re-written in line with [NICE guideline 141](#).
- Treatment options for *H. pylori* infection have been removed as this information is changing regularly and is available in the BNF.
- The Travellers' diarrhoea section has been updated in line with PHE advice.
- Management of acute diverticulitis antibiotic choices have been updated in line with [NICE guideline 147](#).
- The section on local antibiotics sensitivities data has been removed, pending availability of more up to date information.

Acne Pathway (BCCG Only)

The BCCG Acne Pathway has been updated to reflect the changes approved as a result of the Antimicrobial Guideline Update.

UPDATED

Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) Prescribing Responsibilities Paper

UPDATED

As part of the general updating of JPC papers, the above paper has been revised.

The Prescribing Responsibilities were largely unchanged with the exception of clarification of the following:-

- Oncology patients on active cancer treatment – hospital should retain all prescribing.
- Oncology patients being managed in primary care – LMWH prescribed should be retained in primary care.

The following additional updates were made:-

- The Luton & Dunstable hospital and Bedford Hospital now use tinzaparin as the LMWH of choice and the paper has been updated to reflect this.
- Reference section updated.
- Addition of the Luton & Dunstable Hospital dose banding for bariatric patients.
- Addition of information on the use of non-vitamin K oral anticoagulants (NOACs) for venous thromboembolisms (VTEs) in oncology patients.

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES (SCG)

Alemtuzumab Shared Care Guideline (SCG)

UPDATED

The shared care guideline is currently being updated by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG/CUFT in response to the MHRA medication safety alerts (see also SAFETY UPDATE section). In the interim, the SCG has had the links to the MHRA alerts added to the front page of the SCG. GPs who have patients receiving treatment with Alemtuzumab are asked to note this information as the MHRA has recommended changes to the monitoring of patients.

JPC BULLETINS / FACT SHEETS

Bulletin 287 - Novel Nicotine containing Devices

UPDATED

This is an update to and replaces the current EoEPAC* Guidance statement entitled “Electronic cigarettes” which was previously ratified by the JPC as bulletin 236. The bulletin has been updated to reflect the fact that the ‘Voke’ device has now been launched.

The EoEPAC* (and JPC) recommendations remain unchanged and are follows:-

- General practitioners should not prescribe e-cigarettes or other novel nicotine containing devices such as the Voke inhaler. If asked to prescribe them, they should either encourage self care or refer the patient to a locally commissioned smoking cessation service for treatment in line with current policy.
- Local decisions should be made around future prescribing of e-cigarettes and other novel nicotine containing devices only after their place in therapy has been fully established and formulary processes have been followed.

*EoEPAC – East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

Growth Hormone – Information Sheet for GPs

NEW

Growth Hormone is a CCG commissioned drug which is excluded from the national tariff. There are different models of prescribing and supply in use within the county, which is in part due to historical commissioning arrangements. In some parts of the county, supply is via Homecare and GPs do not prescribe. In other parts of the county, GPs may prescribe after stabilisation of the patient but monitoring of the patient remains with the Specialist Centre.

The information sheet aims to provide advice to GPs on prescribing Growth Hormone in primary care to further support the established pathway.

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

Medicinal Cannabis with a focus on the provision of Sativex® (Cannabis extract) for the treatment of spasticity in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

NEW

The Committee discussed a briefing paper on the above subject and issued the following recommendations:-

- To support the use of Sativex® in accordance with [NICE Guideline 144, Cannabis-Based Medicinal Products](#).
- GP prescribing is **not recommended** at the current time. Discussions are ongoing between the CCGs and secondary care providers regarding provision of Sativex® (including submission of business cases for funding).
- Nabilone for chemotherapy-induced intractable nausea and vomiting is recommended in line with NICE Guideline 144 – Hospital only prescribing.
- NICE supported Cannabidiol with clobazam as an option for treating seizures associated with Dravet syndrome ([NICE TA 614](#)) and Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) ([NICE TA 615](#)) in people aged 2 years and older. It was proposed and agreed by the Committee that there should be no GP prescribing as these technologies are commissioned by NHS England and providers are NHS hospitals.
- GP Prescribing of Medicinal Cannabis (licensed or unlicensed) for any other indication is not supported.

Ophthalmology Intravitreal Pathway

UPDATED

The pathway has been updated to reflect the inclusion of [NICE TA 590](#), Fluocinolone for the treatment of recurrent non-infectious uveitis.

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

Lusutrombopag for treating thrombocytopenia in people with chronic liver disease needing a planned invasive procedure. Technology appraisal guidance [TA617] Published date: 08 January 2020. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta617>

Specialist Prescribing only.

Sotagliflozin with insulin for treating type 1 diabetes, Technology appraisal guidance [TA622] Published date: 12 February 2020, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta622>

This guidance will have similar implementation issues to the Daplagliflozin with insulin guidance ([TA597](#)) (**Specialist initiation, GPs to continue**). Sotagliflozin is not available to the NHS. After the product is launched it will be added to the joint formulary and any additional implementation actions confirmed at that time.

Patiromer for treating hyperkalaemia, Technology appraisal guidance [TA623] Published date: 13 February 2020, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta623>

Specialist Initiation with GP to continue (for patients with persistent hyperkalemia) and hospital only for emergency treatment of hyperkalaemia. Further guidance to be issued on the level of information to be provided to GPs to enable them to take over prescribing.

NICE CCG Commissioned Appraisal withdrawn (Monday 10th February 2020):-

Collagenase clostridium histolyticum (CCH) for treating Dupuytren's contracture ([TA459](#))

SAFETY UPDATE

Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts

The MHRA Drug Safety Update for December 2019, January 2020 and February 2020 were noted by the Committee for information and action.

MHRA Drug Safety Update December 2019

- Domperidone for nausea and vomiting: lack of efficacy in children; reminder of contraindications in adults and adolescents. No longer licenced in children under 12 or under 35kg.

MHRA Drug Safety Update January 2020

- E-cigarette use or vaping: reporting suspected adverse reactions, including lung injury.
- Ondansetron: small increased risk of oral clefts following use in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- Mecasermin (Increlex ▼): risk of benign and malignant neoplasia.

MHRA Drug Safety Update February 2020

- Ingenol mebutate gel (Picato ▼): suspension of the licence due to risk of skin malignancy
- Lemtrada ▼ (alemtuzumab): updated restrictions and strengthened monitoring requirements following review of serious cardiovascular and immune-mediated reactions.
- Valproate (Epilim ▼, Depakote ▼) pregnancy prevention programme: updated educational materials.
- Nexplanon (etonogestrel) contraceptive implants: new insertion site to reduce rare risk of neurovascular injury and implant migration.

Additional Papers / issues considered by the Committee

REGIONAL MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEES

The following papers were noted for information:-

[Free of Charge \(FOC\) Medicines Schemes: Updated Advice for adoption as local policy](#)

[Sequential Use of Biologic Medicines](#)

Forthcoming 2020 JPC Meetings

Wednesday 29th April 2020

For information on agenda items scheduled for the prospective meetings 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 or 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 and sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net