

Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) Newsletter October 2020, Number 81

Summary of Key Recommendations – 23rd September 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 will be retired shortly and will not be updated.

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 (Website Manager) or Sandra.McGroarty@nhs.net (Pharmacist Clinical Lead for Website) if you have any feedback.

TREATMENT / PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

PRIMARY CARE OR INTERFACE PRESCRIBING ISSUES

BLMK Commissioning Collaborative Primary Care Paediatric Asthma and Wheeze Guideline Update

UPDATED

This guideline has been updated following the February 2020 update to [NICE Guideline 80 - Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management](#).

As part of the policy alignment process for medicines optimisation, the guideline has been updated from a local Bedfordshire and Luton guideline to a Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Guideline

The revision of the guideline was undertaken with input from clinicians (primary and secondary care) across BLMK.

Key changes include:

- Inclusion of the following statement on quadrupling ICS in paediatric patients: 'For children and young people aged 5 to 16 with deteriorating asthma who have not been taking their ICS consistently, explain that restarting regular use may help them to regain control of their asthma. The evidence for quadrupling ICS doses to self-manage deteriorating asthma control is limited and not recommended. Any increases in ICS doses should be documented in the patient's personalised asthma action plan with support from the specialist'
- Replacement of NICE NG80 diagnostic algorithm with BTS algorithm and statement on commissioning status of FeNO (consistent with adult guideline)
- Removal of current clinical management plans and replacement with BLMK clinical management plans for 0-2 years and 2-16 years.

This updated guideline was ratified at the September JPC meeting, but following current due process during the CCG re-organisation, will require ratification at the next MKPAG meeting in November. The updated guideline will be added to the website following the MKPAG ratification.

Primary Care Guidelines for the Management of Chronic Non-Cancer Pain in Adults

UPDATED

The JPC supported a minor update to the guidelines i.e a link to the Oxford opioid conversion chart replaces Appendix 10 (Opioid Dose Conversions) in the guideline.

Primary Care Osteoporosis Treatment Guidelines

UPDATED

The JPC supported a minor update to the guideline (removal of an 'out of date' reference).

JPC BULLETINS / FACT SHEETS

Choice of Melatonin Preparation:- Bulletin 290

NEW

The JPC endorsed the Choice of Melatonin bulletin produced by East London Foundation Trust. The gives an update on recently licensed melatonin products with the aim to provide prescribers with a guide on what can be prescribed. These recommendations relate to use in **new patients**:-

Recommended

First line choice is Circadin® (melatonin m/r 2 mg tablets) with an unlicensed oral suspension 10mg/5ml (Sugar free/alcohol free and propylene glycol free) as an alternative for patients who cannot use the tablets. This product replaces the 5mg/5mL oral suspension in the shared care guideline which had been updated to reflect this.

Prescribers are requested to prescribe the oral suspension as follows:-

Melatonin 10mg/5ml oral suspension

Not Recommended

Slenyto® (Melatonin prolonged release) 2mg/5mg tablets are not recommended for use in either primary or secondary care as the preparation is not deemed cost-effective. (See also Bulletin 291, EoE PAC* recommendations on the use of Slenyto® below)

The Colonis® preparations (licensed for the short term treatment of jet lag in adults) are not recommended for use as the summary of product characteristics states that they should not be used in children and adolescents due to safety and efficacy concerns. In addition, the oral solution contains propylene glycol and sorbitol as excipients which maybe potentially problematic when used in children.

Melatonin (Slenyto®) 1mg and 5mg prolonged-release tablets (EoE PAC) - Bulletin 291

NEW

The JPC endorsed the following EoE PAC* guidance statement and recommendations:-

- Commissioning of melatonin (Slenyto®) for the treatment of insomnia in children and adolescents aged 2 to 18 years with autism spectrum disorder and/or Smith-Magenis syndrome, where sleep hygiene measures have been insufficient, is **not recommended** as the case for cost effectiveness has not been proven.
- Off label use for any other indication is **not recommended**.
- These recommendations will be reviewed in the light of new evidence on cost effectiveness.

*East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES

Acamprosate for Alcohol Dependence Shared Care Guideline

UPDATED

This shared care guideline has now been updated. GP's will be asked to take over prescribing and monitoring of patients receiving acamprosate for alcohol dependence after the patient has been stabilised on treatment by the relevant Specialist Team (P2R or Resolution).

Lithium Shared Care Guideline

As part of routine updating of JPC documents, the Lithium shared care guideline has been updated in consultation with local specialists and the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC).

UPDATED

Alemtuzumab Shared Care Guidelines

The JPC has approved previous versions of the guideline which has been produced by Cambridgeshire University Hospital Trust and ratified by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Area Prescribing Committee. This JPC ratified update incorporates the recent MHRA safety alerts and clarifies GP prescribing responsibilities in more detail.

UPDATED

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

Nebulised Tobramycin and Colistimethate sodium for Non-Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis - Criteria for use in adults

NEW

The Committee agreed to support criteria (developed in consultation with local respiratory specialists) for the use of nebulised tobramycin and colistimethate sodium in adult patients with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis. Prescribing responsibility for nebulised tobramycin will remain with the hospital specialist, however for Colistimethate sodium, Specialist's will initiate prescribing with GP's continuing.

Moderate to Severe Ulcerative Colitis Treatment Pathway

UPDATED

This pathway has been updated (in consultation with local specialists) to incorporate the recently published [NICE TA 633](#) - Ustekinumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis

Liothyronine Injection Position Statement– Bulletin 275

UPDATED

The Liothyronine Injection guidance statement has been updated to include some additional recommendations from EoEPAC*. Specifically, the addition of the following recommendation:-

- Commissioning of liothyronine injection for the management of organ donors after brain death is not currently recommended

Vedolizumab (Subcutaneous Injection)

NEW

The JPC supported the introduction of subcutaneous vedolizumab as it provides advantages in terms of increasing patient access to treatment and is in addition, cost-effective to the Health Economy

Botulinum Toxin A for treating masseteric hypertrophy and Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Disorders in adults aged 18 years and over

UPDATED
and NEW

The East of England Priorities Advisory statement and recommendations were supported by the Committee.

The criteria for use are very similar to the existing JPC criteria for the masseteric hypertrophy indication.

*East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED

(CCG Commissioned items only)

No positive CCG Commissioned NICE TA has been published since the last JPC Newsletter.

NICE Guidelines :-

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since July 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 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 July and August 2020 were noted by the Committee for information and action.

MHRA Drug Safety Update – July 2020

- Systemically administered VEGF pathway inhibitors: risk of aneurysm and artery dissection.
- Liposomal and lipid-complex formulations: name change to reduce medication errors

MHRA Drug Safety Update – August 2020

- Stimulant laxatives (bisacodyl, senna and sennosides, sodium picosulfate) available over-the-counter: new measures to support safe use
- Clozapine and other antipsychotics: monitoring blood concentrations for toxicity
- Denosumab 60mg (Prolia): increased risk of multiple vertebral fractures after stopping or delaying ongoing treatment.
(JPC Guidance on Denosumab for GPs to be updated to include this information).
- Baricitinib (Olumiant▼): increased risk of diverticulitis, particularly in patients with risk factors
- Isotretinoin (Roaccutane▼): reminder of important risks and precautions
- Emollients and risk of severe and fatal burns: new resources available

In addition to the above, the Committee noted the MHRA Alert changes as follows:-

- National Patient Safety Alerts are back
- all safety-critical alerts for medicines and medical devices that require a system-wide response will be issued as National Patient Safety Alerts.
- CAS will now send the following as 'National Patient Safety Alerts'
 - Class 1 and 2 MHRA Drug Alerts
 - MHRA 'Dear Dr letters'

Additional Papers / issues considered by the Committee

Supply Disruption Alert – Lithium carbonate (Priadel®) 200 mg and 400mg modified release tablets - Important Update

Last month GP practices were contacted to advise that Priadel® would be discontinued and withdrawn from the UK market by April 2021 and patients would need to be switched to an alternative brand.

We have now received an update from NHSE to can confirm that **Priadel® will NOT be withdrawn from the UK market by April 2021**, and there is **no longer a need to progress any switching of patients from Priadel® to an alternative brand of lithium by practices across the CCG**.

This is as a result of the Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA) beginning a formal investigation into the activities of essential pharma and their earlier decision to withdraw Priadel® from the UK market.

[Click here](#) for full information.

Consequently **Essential Pharma have now withdrawn their earlier notice to remove Priadel® from the UK Market** and will continue to make Priadel® available.

Essential pharma would now need to give DHSC at least 6 months' notice if they decided to subsequently withdraw Priadel®. In addition while under investigation the CMA can impose temporary measures that would mean that a company can not make any changes until the outcome of a CMA investigation is complete, a process that can take several years to complete.

Therefore guidance on switching patients will not be circulated and any patients who require Priadel® should continue to be managed in line with usual clinical practice and be reassured that stock will remain available.

GP Practices will be updated with more information as we receive it but if you have any questions with regard to the information above please get in touch.

Forthcoming 2020 JPC Meetings

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Items to be discussed (provisionally) are: Sativex® Business case; Semaglutide Oral Preparation; Gonadotrophin Review; PsA, RA and AS biologics pathways.

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 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