

Prescribing Information Newsletter

July 2019, Number 76

Summary of the Key Recommendations from
The Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC)

19th June 2019

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Luton Clinical Commissioning Group

Output from the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee
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 GUIDELINES

ANTIMICROBIAL GUIDELINE

UPDATED

The antimicrobial guideline has been reviewed and updated in response to the MHRA guidance on Fluoroquinolone antibiotics. [click here](#) for the MHRA Guidance.

The updated guideline can be accessed via GP Ref.

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES AND TREATMENT PATHWAYS

APOMORPHINE SHARED CARE GUIDELINE UPDATE

UPDATED

The shared care guidelines have been revised as part of the general updating of JPC documents. An additional apomorphine product (Dacepton®) was added to the shared care guideline.

COPD DECISION AID

NEW

As part of the update of the COPD ACO Primary Care Guideline it was agreed that an Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS) step down protocol would be developed to ensure medicines are optimally managed and reviewed in primary care. [click here](#) for the approved protocol. The protocol will be incorporated into Bedfordshire and Luton existing COPD/ACO primary care guideline.

PRIMARY CARE HEADACHE PATHWAY (BCCG ONLY)

NEW

The committee approved a new pathway (based on the national CKS guidance) for the diagnosis and Management of Primary Headaches within the primary care setting. The development of this pathway was led by the BCCG Planned care commissioning team with the aim of empowering GPs to manage patients in Primary Care and reduce first outpatient appointments, resulting in a shorter 'Referral To Treatment' rates. The pathway will be published on the [GP Ref](#) website in due course.

JPC BULLETINS

BULLETIN 274: Semaglutide for the treatment of Diabetes Mellitus

The following recommendations were agreed:-

- Semaglutide is recommended for use (and addition to the formulary) in line with NICE Guidance and the additional JPC recommendations as outlined in the current JPC GLP1 agonist bulletin 245.
- The Joint Formulary sequencing for the GLP1 receptor agonists is:-
 - First line – Liraglutide
 - Second line – Semaglutide
 - Third line – Dulaglutide

BULLETIN 276: IRON CHELATORS FOR THE TREATMENT OF IRON OVERLOAD IN MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROME (MDS)

UPDATED

The Committee agreed to support the recommendations included in the EoEPAC bulletin which replaces replaces JPC Bulletin 214. Any funding requests will be considered via the Individual Request (IFR) process. NB. There is no change to current recommendations on criteria for funding.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts

The MHRA Drug Safety Update for April and May 2019 were noted by the Committee for information and action.

[Click here](#) for the April 2019 DSU.

The main drug safety updates to note:

- Yellow fever vaccine (Stamaril) and fatal adverse reactions: extreme caution needed in people who may be immunosuppressed and those 60 years and older.
- Valproate medicines and serious harms in pregnancy: new Annual Risk Acknowledgement Form and clinical guidance from professional bodies to support compliance with the Pregnancy Prevention Programme.
- Belimumab (Benlysta ▼): increased risk of serious psychiatric events seen in clinical trials.
- Pregabalin (Lyrica), gabapentin (Neurontin) and risk of abuse and dependence: new scheduling requirements from 1 April 2019.
- Elvitegravir boosted with cobicistat: avoid use in pregnancy due to risk of treatment failure and maternal-to-child transmission of HIV-1.

[Click here](#) for the May 2019 DSU

The main drug safety updates to note:

- Lemtrada (alemtuzumab) and serious cardiovascular and immune-mediated adverse reactions: new restrictions to use and strengthened monitoring requirements.
- Tofacitinib (Xeljanz ▼): restriction of 10 mg twice-daily dose in patients at high risk of pulmonary embolism while safety review is ongoing.

- Magnesium sulfate: risk of skeletal adverse effects in the neonate following prolonged or repeated use in pregnancy.

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING/ FORMULARY/ COMMISSIONING ISSUES

FORMULARY

The Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Formulary (a combined medicines formulary for use by BCCG, LCCG, Bedford Hospital and the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital) is now 'live'. It can currently be accessed from the [Luton & Dunstable Hospital website](#) but will soon be available at www.bedsformulary.nhs.uk

Additional Papers / issues considered by the Committee - for ratification

New Update

JPC Annual report – 2018/19

The annual report was approved by the JPC and will shortly be available on [GP Ref](#).

Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMOC)

The latest RMOC meeting update is available here [via the link](#)
In addition RMOC has issued the following guidance statement:

Principles guiding the decision making about the route of supply of medicines to outpatients available [via the link](#).

NICE Guidance issued/updated

Guidance/ CCG Commissioned Technology Appraisals where JPC action is required

- **Ertugliflozin with metformin and a dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor for treating type 2 diabetes**
Technology appraisal guidance [TA583] Published date: 05 June 2019
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta583>

Forthcoming 2019 JPC Meetings

Wednesday 18th September
Wednesday 4th December

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