

Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester District Prescribing Committee

Recommendations of the meeting of 12th June 2012

Supported or limited support, e.g. specialist recommendation/initiation

- **Diabetes- updated stepped approach guidance and self-monitoring of blood glucose guidance.** The DPC approved recent changes proposed by the Diabetes subgroup, including updates to include the latest DVLA guidance in self-monitoring of blood glucose.
- **ADHD updated shared care guidelines-** final version approved for dissemination
- **Subcutaneous Terbutaline delivered via syringe driver-** The DPC agreed that future and ongoing provision of equipment (and prescribing of medication) to the small number of patients benefitting from this intervention would be best provided via the specialist service and a homecare delivery company, procured via acute contracting.
- **Collagenase clostridium histolyticum injection (Xiapex®)-** The DPC agreed to limited use of this injectable agent by specialists treating Dupuytren's contracture as an option in adults with single palpable cord, as an alternative to more invasive surgical intervention. (Point of note- locally, patients should only be referred for surgical opinion if they have a contracture and cannot flatten their fingers or palm on a table and there is functional impairment)
- **TOBI podhaler-** The tobramycin dry powder inhaler for use in cystic fibrosis was approved for local specialist prescribing in selected stable patients (i.e. a 'red' drug locally) at this stage. Prescribing will be retained by CF specialists.
- **Calcitonin nasal spray in acute bone pain due to vertebral collapse associated with osteoporosis-** This was approved for short term use as an alternative to injectable calcitonin/salcatonin. Maximum duration of treatment for acute pain is 3 months, usually following specialist recommendation.
- **Phenobarbitone solution for use in paediatric epilepsy-** Unlicensed special order preparations are available, both with and without alcohol as an excipient. Due to the highly specialist nature of using such a preparation and the low numbers affected, the DPC agreed to keep this preparation 'red' for the time being (specialist only prescribing and supplied from hospital pharmacies)

Not Supported currently

- **The Virulite device for treatment of cold sores-** The DPC did not support prescribing of this device locally, based on lack of evidence of benefit.
- **Fampridine SR tablets in multiple sclerosis to improve walking-** The DPC agreed that this new agent should not be recommended for local use currently. The short-term trial data was of relatively low scientific quality and the long term safety (such as incidence of seizures) is unknown. The SHIP Priorities Committee will consider this further in the Autumn.
- **Glycopyrrolate Cream for hyperhidrosis-** This unlicensed preparation is available as a special order product at a cost of around £2000 per month in primary care. The DPC cannot recommend its use locally prior to considering the evidence of benefit, including cost-effectiveness compared to other treatments for hyperhidrosis. Any exceptional prescribing by specialists should be retained in the hospital setting (i.e. 'red')

Information / Reminders / Updates/ Safety Messages / NICE

- **Dabigatran (and Rivaroxaban) use in Atrial Fibrillation, following NICE guidance-** Interim local guidance was issued in November 2011. Following final NICE guidance (March and May 2012) this is now under review and local DPC approved guidance will be issued shortly. Concerns exist locally around bleeding risk and the lack of a readily available 'antidote', in the acute setting in particular.
- **Viteyes in stage 4 ARMD on prescription locally-** Viteyes Original remains the most cost-effective option for prescribing in stage 4 disease currently. Patients with stage 1-3 disease may choose to purchase vitamins over the counter, but should be encouraged to eat a diet rich in green vegetables and discontinue smoking as a priority. The results of a further 5 year trial will be published later this year.

**Summarised on behalf of the District Prescribing Committee
Julia Bowey (NHS Southampton City) 20.06.12**