

**Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester  
District Prescribing Committee**

**Recommendations of the meeting of 14 August 2012**

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

- **Calcitonin nasal spray in acute bone pain due to vertebral collapse associated with osteoporosis**- The Committee noted that this formulation (which is only approved for use in the treatment of osteoporosis) is to be withdrawn. Injections and infusions will continue to be available for specialist initiation.
- **Oral vinorelbine** - The Committee supported the use of oral vinorelbine where IV access is difficult but not more widely, on grounds of cost. However, the Committee also accepted that providers may wish to explore with commissioners a switch to oral more generally if capacity is a concern or where switching to oral could reduce activity costs. Oral vinorelbine is classified as 'Red'.
- **Ivabradine for chronic heart failure** – the Committee supported the use of ivabradine for patients with chronic heart failure in line with the product's licensed indication and the NICE appraisal consultation document. Final NICE guidance is expected in November 2012.
- **Ulipristal 5mg (Esmya) for the pre-operative treatment of uterine fibroids** – the Committee supported the use of this product locally as an option. Classified as 'Amber' (consultant recommendation) but no requirement for a shared care guideline.
- **Actikerall (fluorouracil and salicylic acid) cutaneous solution for actinic keratosis** – the Committee supported the availability of this product which may allow more appropriate treatment in primary care.
- **Linezolid** - this antibiotic remains 'Red' however for practical reasons (e.g. where a patient is not under the care of the hospital specialist, but linezolid has been recommended by a microbiologist) it may then be appropriate for the GP to prescribe. The specialist must advise the GP of any monitoring requirements and potential drug interactions.

**Not Supported currently**

- **Indacaterol Breezhaler in COPD**- This 'LABA' medication for COPD is not recommended for use currently based on the lack of advantages over other long acting bronchodilators.
- **Imiquimod (Aldara) cream for actinic keratosis** – the Committee did not support the use of this product locally because of its poor tolerability. A lower strength cream is to be launched in the near future which will be evaluated.

**Information / Reminders / Updates/ Safety Messages / NICE**

- **Dabigatran and Rivaroxaban use for stroke prevention in Atrial Fibrillation** - local guidance, which complements NICE guidance, has been endorsed and disseminated to GPs and specialists and is available on PCTs' websites.
- **Calcium supplements and the risk of myocardial infarction** – the Committee considered a summary of the recently published evidence and the views of local specialists on this issue. The evidence is from observational studies which do not allow a causal link to be proven and in practice most patients are taking calcium in combination with vitamin D, rather than calcium alone. The Committee therefore supported the MHRA guidance which is that no change to current prescribing practice is recommended. In line with NICE guidance (osteoporosis primary and secondary prevention), calcium and/or vitamin D supplementation should be provided unless the clinician is confident that the patient has an adequate calcium intake and is vitamin D replete.
- **Rivaroxaban following hip fracture surgery and for patients discharged with lower limb casts** - the Committee noted the recent decision by University Hospital Southampton FT to use this agent (outside its marketing authorisation) for these indications. The hospital will supply the entire course of treatment.
- **SHIP wide guidance on the use of biologic agents for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis** has been approved.

**Summarised on behalf of the District Prescribing Committee - Neil Hardy 28 August 2012**