

**Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester
District Prescribing Committee (DPC)
Recommendations of the meeting of 13 August 2013**

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

- **Medihoney (honey) antibacterial dressing and wound gel** - This has recently been supported by the local wound formulary subgroup, for use in managing critically colonized cavity wounds.
- **Fidaxomicin for the treatment of C.diff in adults** - Supported for local use as a third line option, and classified as a 'red' drug locally (i.e. specialist only prescribing).
- **Testosterone gels**- The DPC supported the niche availability of gel formulations locally. It was agreed that testosterone preparations should be classified as 'amber' and a reminder issued to prescribers that they should only be prescribed in patients with proven hypogonadism and marked clinical symptoms of testosterone deficiency. An additional reminder that erectile dysfunction in middle-aged and older men with naturally declining testosterone levels will often respond to a trial of sildenafil. See local Map of Medicine for Testosterone Deficiency and/or Erectile Dysfunction for further information.
- **Leflunomide Shared Care Guidelines**- Updated and approved, including added clarity around the need to record the patients weight, and more specific guidance on dealing with uncontrolled hypertension.
- **Ceftaroline, new IV antibiotic**- supported for local use by specialists only ('red')

Not Supported currently

- **Fluticasone plus azelastine (Dymista) nasal spray**- Not routinely supported for use locally, due to weak evidence of efficacy, and relatively high cost.
- **Nalmefene tablets for 'reduction of problem drinking'**- The DPC was unable to support local use of this new agent currently. Evidence was relatively poor with high drop-out rates in clinical trials. In addition local alcohol services are not currently commissioned to support prescribing of nalmefene in this way.
- **MolluDab (5% potassium hydroxide solution) for the treatment of molluscum contagiosum**- This product was not supported for local prescribing as little information on efficacy is available, and most cases are asymptomatic and self-limiting. This product can be purchased over the counter (OTC) but clinicians should usually reassure 'watchful waiting' for spontaneous resolution.

Information / Reminders / Updates/ Safety Messages / NICE

- **Diclofenac Prescribing** - It was noted that DPC membership organisations had taken action to reduce the use of diclofenac, suggesting alternatives such as naproxen or lower dose ibuprofen in preference. Recent MHRA guidance has reminded prescribers about cardiovascular risks <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/DrugSafetyUpdate/CON286975>. Although Diclofenac remains available OTC from pharmacies the MHRA is now currently reconsidering its' legal status.
- **Strontium and Denosumab Safety issues** - UHS guidance on managing patients who have contraindications to strontium, or patients who have received three years treatment with denosumab, was noted. CCG leads agreed to cascade to GPs. The DPC also clarified that when denosumab is being recommended for bony metastases prescribing should be retained by the specialist (i.e. red)
- **Familial Breast Cancer (NICE CG 164)** - The DPC noted that the guideline recommends offering chemo protection with raloxifene or tamoxifen to women at high risk. GPs may be asked to prescribe longer term in such cases, following specialist advice.
- **Mirabegron in Overactive Bladder (NICE TA 290)**- NICE has recommended this as an option for treating symptoms only for people in whom antimuscarinic drugs are contraindicated or clinically ineffective, or have unacceptable side effects. The DPC agreed that mirabegron should be classified as 'green'.
- **Dapagliflozin in type 2 diabetes**- The local Diabetes DPC subgroup has recommended that this new agent remains 'amber' (specialist recommendation only) for the time being, until further local experience is gained.

**Summarised on behalf of the District Prescribing Committee
Julia Bowey (Southampton City CCG) 12.09.13**