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Oral Nutritional Supplements – Abbott Ensure® range in 220ml pack size

Abbott Nutrition are currently contracted with NHS GGC to supply nutritional products from their Ensure® range, e.g. Ensure® Plus Milkshake Style and Ensure® Plus juice. The company retains a full marketing authorisation within the UK for the supply of the 220ml pack size in re-sealable bottles although a 200ml Tetrapak® carton is available but only as a parallel import.

In August 2013, community pharmacists were advised by the Board's Prescribing Support Dieticians of their considerable concerns regarding the practice of substituting the 220ml bottles for the 200ml cartons. At the time, community pharmacists were requested not to use the 200ml cartons. Despite this, and from the numerous complaints received, it appears that these are still being issued and the professional advice ignored. On an ongoing basis, the implications for patient care need to be considered –

- 200ml cartons provide 10% less calories than the intended 220ml bottle. This could have a negative impact on the patient's nutritional status which may be clinically significant
- These products are prescribed to treat a clinical condition. The prescriber may not be aware of the substitution for the smaller pack size and the patient may not have been supplied with the total volume of product for the prescribed period of treatment
- Cartons cannot be resealed whereas the bottle lid can be replaced therefore minimising the risk of microbial contamination if left unsealed for extended periods of time
- Patient feedback consistently highlights that the content of the cartons has an inferior taste which is affecting compliance
- Nursing staff in care homes report receiving a mixture of bottles and cartons which causes difficulties for staff when trying to ensure patients receive their daily prescribed dose
- The 200ml cartons are more difficult for patients to hold and are more likely to be damaged

Requirements

Community pharmacists are requested to dispense the Ensure® range in 220ml bottles in accordance with the prescriber's instructions and avoid use of the 200ml carton. Difficulties in obtaining stock should be reported to the Prescribing Support Dietician Team on 0141 201 5197 or presupdiet@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

The Ensure® range available in bottle pack sizes are –

Ensure® Plus Milkshake Style 220ml	Ensure® Plus Juice 220ml
Ensure® Plus Yoghurt Style 220ml	Ensure® Plus Savoury 220ml
Ensure® Plus Fibre 200ml*	Ensure® Twocal 200ml*

* only available in 200ml size

Recovery Walk Scotland 2015; it's big, it's alive and it's registering now



On Saturday 19th September, Recovery Walk Scotland 2015 will take to the streets of Glasgow. Don't miss what is shaping up to be the largest outdoor recovery gathering in Scotland so far! Registration for the festival and walk event is now open on the SRC website at www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org You can register individually or as a group.

The Recovery Festival is taking place on Glasgow Green, just off the High St, where marchers will gather at 11 am. The walk will depart from the Green and process for 2 miles through the heart of Glasgow city and return to the Green for music, speakers, activities and time for connecting with each other until 4pm.

There will be weekly updates on the site and all information about the walk will go directly via email to those who have registered. Time now to think – who do you want to walk with? How will you mobilise your friends, supporters, services and communities to be there- proud to be part of recovery and proud to be building recovery from addiction in Scotland.

Bydureon® vial & syringe is being replaced by the Bydureon® Pen

The Bydureon® 2mg (Exenatide prolonged release) vial & syringe delivery device is being withdrawn to be replaced by a pre-filled pen device. Currently the Bydureon® 2mg (vial) powder and solvent for prolonged-release suspension is still available & Astra Zeneca has advised that supplies of the old device will still be available in the UK until November - December 2015.

The new Bydureon® (Exenatide prolonged release) 2mg powder and solvent in PREFILLED PENS has been introduced gradually since earlier this year. This new pen permits reconstitution of the powder more readily and is easier for patients with manual dexterity problems to use safely.

A User Manual providing step by step guidance on how to use the new pre-filled pen is available at:

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/PIL/29804.latest.pdf

Information for community pharmacists can be found at www.azsupply.co.uk/content/dam/physician-services/Global/116-simply4doctors-co-uk/documents/609402-Bydureon®-pen-pharmacist-patient-letter.pdf

All new patients initiated on Bydureon® (Exenatide 2 mg prolonged release) will be prescribed the new PREFILLED PEN DEVICE. Existing patients using the vial & syringe require additional training **before** switching to the prefilled pen prior to supplies of the vial being discontinued at the end of 2015.

A few patients however have received the wrong preparation. In order to reduce the risk, community pharmacists are asked to be particularly vigilant -

- To ensure the appropriate device is dispensed.
- To confirm that the prescription item is what the patient is expecting i.e. the vial or the new prefilled pen device.
- To confirm with all patients expecting the new prefilled pen device they know or have arranged with a healthcare professional to be shown how to use the new prefilled pen device.

GP practices are also being asked to be vigilant when selecting the Bydureon® prefilled pen device on EMIS or VISION to ensure the correct descriptor is selected. Descriptions are very similar adding to the risk of the wrong one being chosen. Pharmacy staff should be aware of what device is to be dispensed. The descriptors for the prefilled pen device are in bold below as a reference.

EMIS :

Bydureon® powder and solvent for suspension for injection 2mg vial

Bydureon® powder and solvent for suspension for injection 2mg device

Exenatide powder and solvent for suspension for injection 2mg vial

Exenatide powder and solvent for suspension for injection 2mg pen

Vision:

Bydureon® 2mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection vials (AstraZeneca UK Ltd)

Bydureon® 2mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection pre-filled pen (AstraZeneca UK Ltd)

Exenatide 2mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection vials

Exenatide 2mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection pre-filled disposable devices

SPHERE Bladder and Bowel Service

The SPHERE Bladder and Bowel Service provides a professional, caring, confidential and supportive approach to people with bladder or/and bowel symptoms. The aim of the team is to promote continence by empowering the individual to self manage their symptoms by teaching behavioural and lifestyle changes that can promote bladder and bowel health. To support the individual, the service has two specially trained teams across the city. These teams include specialist nurses and physiotherapists who can advise and support the individual on improving their bladder or/and bowel symptoms or prevent any deterioration by facilitating and providing rehabilitative treatments.

For more information on the service and the clinics we offer please see staffnet link below:

http://www.staffnet.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/Partnerships/Greater%20Glasgow%20and%20Clyde%20Services/Primary%20Care%20Support/SPHERE_BaB_Service/Pages/SPHEREBaBService.aspx

For patient information please see

<http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/services/continence-services-sphere-bladder-and-bowel-service/>

Dual Antiplatelet Therapy (DAPT)

Dual antiplatelet therapy, typically aspirin plus clopidogrel or ticagrelor, is generally prescribed as a fixed course to reduce the incidence of recurrent coronary events. When prescribed for the appropriate duration, benefits of DAPT clearly outweigh the associated risks.

To reduce the chance of DAPT being prescribed for longer than recommended, GPs are asked to annotate the stop date for clopidogrel or ticagrelor within the dosage directions. Pharmacists should be alert to this information at the point of dispensing. If a prescription is issued beyond the intended stop date, this should be reviewed with the practice and/or patient.

Watch this space.....

Trailer for a major article on paediatric medicines that will feature in the next issue....A number of potentially serious incidents have arisen in the past few months which could have had major consequences had a parent not intervened and queried the strength and dosage of their child's paediatric preparations. At this stage community pharmacists are asked to ensure that the required dose for a liquid preparation is given in volume (mls) and not strength (mg/mcg). More details next month! Before then you may wish to complete the NES interactive PDF file on an 'Introduction to Paediatric Pharmaceutical Care'.