

PostScript - Primary Care

January 2007

VARENICLINE (CHAMPIX®) FOR SMOKING CESSATION: This January's New Year's resolutions for many people will include the determination to stop smoking.

Varenicline is a new oral selective partial agonist of nicotinic receptors. It is designed to reduce craving and withdrawal from nicotine and blocks the rewards from smoking cigarettes. It is licensed for smoking cessation in adults.

There is limited efficacy and safety data available relative to NRT and amfebutamone / bupropion (Zyban®) which form the basis of existing smoking cessation services.

The SMC are due to assess this new product during the first three months of 2007. Following that, the ADTC will review the advice and consider this medicine for *Formulary* inclusion. The Tobacco Planning and Implementation Group will conclude its review on how the medicine will fit with the overall smoking cessation programme in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. **Until then, this drug is non-Formulary.**

Prescribers should continue to utilise existing smoking cessation services such as Starting Fresh and CHP smoking cessation groups. For details see www.smokingconcerns.com.

Smoking cessation therapies are more likely to succeed for patients who are motivated to stop smoking and who are provided with additional advice and support.

The existing services try to provide this additional advice and support to maximize the likelihood of success. In the first nine months of 2006 almost 12,000 people were recruited to these services, so considerably reducing the workload for GP practices.

SMC WORK PROGRAMME:

The following drugs are also under review by the SMC and will not be considered by the ADTC for *Formulary* inclusion until the SMC have reached a decision. **All are non-Formulary.**



- Amlodipine / valsartan (Exforge®)
- Azelaic acid (Finacea® gel)
- Buprenorphine patch (BuTrans®)
- Buprenorphine / naloxone (Suboxone®)
- Calcium / colecalciferol (Natecal®)
- Formoterol (Atimos Modulite®)
- Ivabradine (Procoralan®)
- Lidocaine medicated plaster
- Pioglitazone triple therapy (Actos®)
- Rimonabant (Accomplia®)

REVIEW OF PRESCRIBING OF NON-SMC APPROVED MEDICINES:

All practices receive quarterly updates on their prescribing of products which have not been accepted for use in NHS Scotland by the SMC and are therefore non-*Formulary*. The three most commonly prescribed drugs in the period July – September 2006 across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde were Yasmin®, Tramacet® and Glucophage SR®.

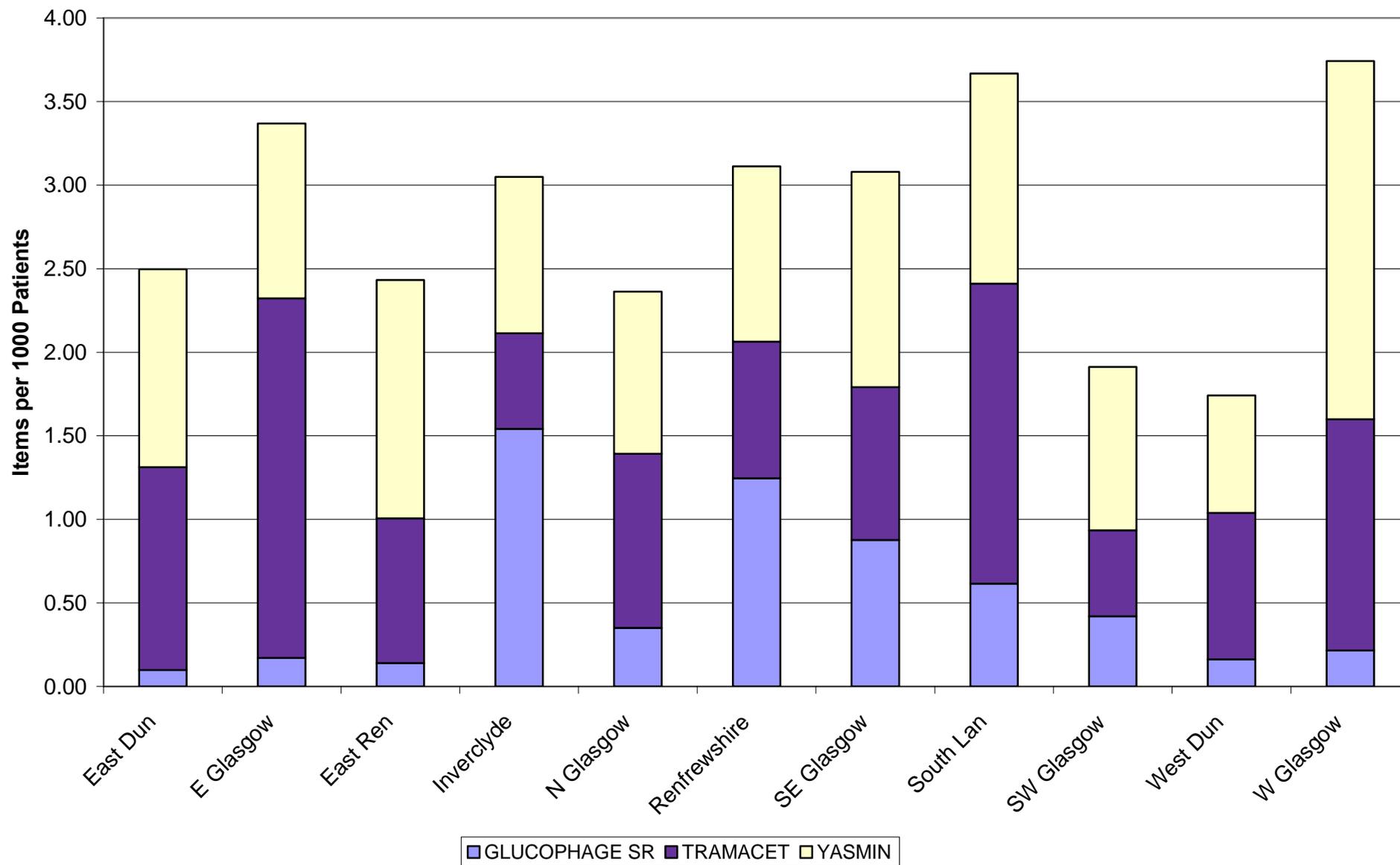
The range of prescribing across different CHPs for July – September 2006 is shown overleaf. Script numbers show that use of all these drugs is increasing:

	Jul – Sep 05	Jul – Sep 06
Yasmin	1,514	1,592
Tramacet	1,088	1,416
Glucophage SR	228	686

There are a number of products which have been accepted by SMC for some indications, yet not approved for others. These drugs are not included in the calculation as prescribing data give no information on indication.

Pregabalin (Lyrica®) is a good example. It has been accepted for use in epilepsy by the SMC and is on the *Formulary* for this indication. The other uses; neuropathic pain and generalised anxiety disorder, are not approved for use in NHS Scotland by the SMC. Pregabalin is non-*Formulary* for these indications. There were 2,773 items for pregabalin the latest quarter.

CHP COMPARISON OF NON-SMC APPROVED DRUGS JULY – SEPTEMBER 2006



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