

PostScript - Primary Care



The use of both Cervarix® and Gardasil® outwith this programme in the NHS will be monitored and prescribers using these vaccines may be required to give reasons for their use.

September 2008

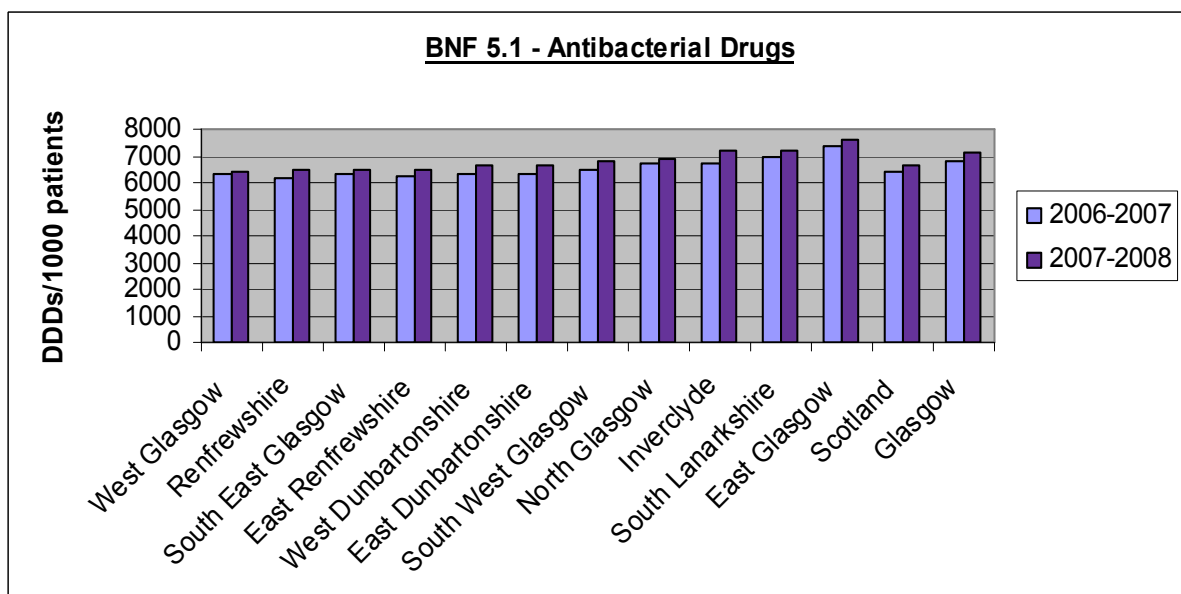
HPV VACCINATION PROGRAMME: GPs will be aware that the HPV vaccination programme against cervical cancer was launched in Scotland on 1st September 2008. In Greater Glasgow and Clyde, this vaccine will be primarily given by school nurses in school starting on 8th September. Girls in secondary-2 aged 12 to 13 years will be targeted and in addition there will be a catch up programme for all older girls aged up to 17 years, 364 days on 1st September 2009. This catch up programme will last for three years and girls no longer at school will be advised by the Health Board in due course where to go for their vaccines. This catch up programme for girls not at school will be mainly done by GPs unless they decide not to opt in for the HPV local enhanced service.

GPs should also note that based on a number of criteria including costs and benefits and competitive tender, the UK government decided to use Cervarix® for the public health programme and it is intended that this is the only vaccine to be used for this programme.

BUPRENORPHINE: BuTrans® patches have recently been assessed by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) following a re-submission. The SMC have not recommended them for the treatment of severe opioid responsive pain conditions, which are not adequately responding to non-opioid analgesics. BuTrans® patches therefore remain non-Formulary in Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Prescribers are reminded that the other transdermal and oral formulations of buprenorphine are also non-Formulary.

ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING: We provided information in the July Bulletin about the changes to infection management guidance in secondary care to reduce the incidence of *Clostridium Difficile*. Following this revision there are plans to develop and introduce local primary care antimicrobial guidelines for use in general practice.

The table below illustrates the level of prescribing of antibiotics in primary care across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. It clearly shows the trend is increasing year on year despite the problems of resistance.



SAVINGS BY PRESCRIBING COST-EFFECTIVE PACK SIZES

Due to the inflated prices of Over the Counter (OTC) packs of certain prescribable products, prescribers should try to prescribe as the more cost-effective pack size where possible. Some common examples of such products are shown in the table below:

Product	OTC Price (From Chemist & Druggist, Aug 08)	Dispensing Pack (From BNF 55)
Canesten HC [®] Cream	£3.11 / 15g	£2.42 / 30g
Daktacort [®] Cream	£2.73 / 15g	£1.90 / 30g
Eumovate [®] Cream	£3.41 / 15g	£1.97 / 30g
Voltarol [®] Gel	£2.93 / 30g £4.28 / 50g	£7.00 / 100g
Beconase [®]	£3.56 / 100dose £5.54 / 180dose	£2.19 / 200dose
Ketoconazole Shampoo	£3.42 / 60ml £4.99 / 100ml	£4.60 / 120ml

MELATONIN: The MHRA recently issued advice to all prescribers and pharmacists about the supply of melatonin. It states that where melatonin is prescribed that the licensed product (Circadin[®]) is used when possible including off-label use.

The Scottish Medicines Consortium assessed Circadin[®] and issued advice in August that it is not recommend for use in NHS Scotland for primary insomnia in over 55 year olds. It therefore remains non-*Formulary*.

FORTISIP[®] STARTER PACK: Nutricia Clinical have recently introduced a Fortisip[®] Range Starter Pack which contains four Fortisip[®], four Fortijuce[®] and two Fortisip[®] Yoghurt Style (previously known as Fortifresh[®]). This is designed for a first supply to a patient to assist in their flavour selection.

We have received reports of pricing errors in relation to this product where the quantity priced is higher than that intended and dispensed. Prescribers should ensure that the quantity for the starter pack is prescribed as 'one' and subsequent supplies should be prescribed as the standard bottle and not the starter pack to avoid overpricing.

Prescribers should also note that Fortisip[®] Protein has now been discontinued and replaced by Fortisip[®] Extra.

ONLINE YELLOW CARD REPORTING: The Yellow Card Scheme is run by the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), and it is used to collect information from

health professionals and the general public on suspected side effects or adverse drug reactions (ADRs) from a medicine. This includes prescribed medicines, over the counter medicines and herbal medicines. Yellow cards should be completed for all ADRs of products under intensive surveillance (annotated with ▼ in BNF). For other products, report all serious reactions. For children, report all ADRs, minor or serious.

Prescribers can report ADRs online at: www.yellowcard.gov.uk

DRUG SAFETY BULLETIN: The MHRA produce a monthly electronic bulletin providing information and advice on the safe use of medicines. It is intended for all UK health professionals. You can sign up to the email alerting service at: <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Onlineservices/General/E-mailalertingservice/index.htm>

Recent bulletins contain advice on the use of antiepileptics, varenicline and moxifloxacin.

NEW STAFF: There has been a new addition to the dietetic team within PPSU. Una Martin, Specialist Prescribing Dietitian for Clyde took up post on 1st August 2008. Una will be working across Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire CH(C)Ps to support effective prescribing of nutrition products and anti-obesity drugs. Una can be contacted at una.martin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or on 07534919346.