

# PostScript - Primary Care

October 2008

## ENDOCARDITIS PROPHYLAXIS:

Antibacterial prophylaxis and chlorhexidine mouthwash are **no longer recommended** for the prevention of endocarditis in patients undergoing:

- o dental procedures (NICE Clinical Guideline No. 64);
- o respiratory tract procedures (including ear nose and throat procedures and bronchoscopy);
- o genito-urinary tract procedures;
- o gastro-intestinal procedures.

There has been no clear association with the development of infective endocarditis in these procedures. Exposing patients to the adverse effects of antimicrobials cannot be justified when the evidence of benefit is not proven. Any infection in patients at risk of endocarditis should be investigated promptly and treated appropriately to reduce the risk.

## DEFINED DAILY DOSES – DEFINITION:

Defined daily dose or DDD is a measure sometimes used in prescribing analysis to compare the prescribing of a product across the organisation or to other similar drugs. We are often asked what this means. **The DDD is the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used for its main indication in adults.** It does not necessarily reflect the recommended or actual dose.

The DDD was devised by the World Health Organisation (<http://www.whooc.no/atcddd/>) to help compare the use of different drugs. For example, the DDDs for omeprazole and lansoprazole, are 20mg and 30mg respectively. We can then compare prescribing as follows:

28 omeprazole 20mg	= 28 DDDs
56 omeprazole 10mg	= 28 DDDs
28 lansoprazole 15mg	= 14 DDDs

## STOCK ORDERS OF CDs FOR LOCUMS AND USE IN OUT OF HOURS SETTING:

While undertaking CD review visits, it appears some discrepancies are due to practices ordering stock for locums. A full audit trail for all CDs is maintained and that all transactions are recorded in accordance with the legal obligations. The practice CD register should contain an entry for receipt of any CDs ordered and a separate entry for the supply of those drugs to the relevant practitioner. It is good practice to include the practitioner's GMC number. Where stock ordered by a medical practice is used in an out of hours setting, annotating the register entry with the call number or site where the administration took place is good practice and helps maintain the audit trail.

Destruction of out of date stock of CDs can only be undertaken in the presence of an authorised witness. Locum GPs who need destruction of stock, or practices with further need for destruction, should contact the CD Governance Team on 0141 201 5348 to make an appointment.

## SIBUTRAMINE AND GLAUCOMA:

Unlike the BNF, the SPC for sibutramine lists narrow angle glaucoma as a contraindication but the Prescribing should usually be in accordance with the SPC of a product. The anticholinergic effect of sibutramine causes the pupil to dilate. In theory, as the pupil enlarges the iris could block off flow of aqueous humour in the eye and raise intraocular pressure. A review of sibutramine safety (*Obesity reviews* (2008) **9**, 378–387) states: “*Although no cases of sibutramine-associated glaucoma have been reported, the manufacturers suggest that sibutramine use be avoided in patients with narrow angle glaucoma as it can cause mydriasis.*”

## AMENDMENT:

For the HPV article in last month's bulletin, please note the following amendment: The catch up programme for HPV vaccination in girls aged up to 17 years 364 days will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> September **2008**.

## SKIN INFECTION GUIDELINE:

A new protocol for the management of skin infection in children has been approved for use in NHSGGC. Please see over.



# GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SKIN INFECTION IN CHILDREN

