

PostScript - Primary Care

September 2009

GENERIC CLOPIDOGREL: The MHRA has recently granted marketing authorisations for generic versions of clopidogrel. The generic versions contain clopidogrel besilate which has demonstrated bioequivalence to the original salt of Plavix® (clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate). As with the launch of new generic versions of other drugs in the past, the licensed indications may vary from one product to another; prescribers should continue to prescribe generic clopidogrel.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS: We are fortunate to have two new team members join the central prescribing team during July: Sean MacBride-Stewart, Lead for Prescribing Resources and Andrew Morgan, Prescribing Support Technician.

Sean joins us from NHS Lothian where he was a Primary Care Pharmacist for 10 years. He has also spent time at NHS Services Scotland within the PRISMS project and the Medicines Utilisation Unit.

Andrew has a background in hospital pharmacy and has special interests in IT. Andrew's role will include developing search templates to support the prescribing indicators.

TRIPLE THERAPY OPTIONS AND COMPARATIVE COSTS: The Management of infection guidelines contain different options for Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy. The different options with comparative costs are illustrated here to assist prescribers in their choice of regime:

	Cost for 7 days		Cost for 7 days
Omeprazole 20mg bd Amoxicillin 1g bd Metronidazole 400mg bd	£3.63	Lansoprazole 30mg bd Amoxicillin 1g bd Metronidazole 400mg bd	£4.29
Omeprazole 20mg bd Amoxicillin 1g bd Clarithromycin 500mg bd	£9.08	Lansoprazole 30mg bd Amoxicillin 1g bd Clarithromycin 500mg bd	£9.74

If penicillin allergy, use both metronidazole and clarithromycin.

VIT B CO STRONG:

ADTC have taken the decision to remove vitamin B compound strong tablets from the GGC *Formulary*.



Historically, the primary use of this preparation was to address vitamin deficiency in patients with alcohol dependence and vitamin prophylaxis for Wernicke's encephalopathy. Following a review, it is accepted that this preparation has little therapeutic benefit.

The preferred step-down oral vitamin supplementation for this patient group is thiamine (vitamin B₁) 100mg three times daily. Vitamin B compound strong only contains 5mg of thiamine per tablet. It also contains sub-therapeutic quantities of pyridoxine (vitamin B₆).

EPADERM CREAM:

Molnlycke® have recently introduced a new cream formulation to the Epaderm® range. This is available in a 50g and 500g size. There has been some confusion over prescribing and dispensing as the original emollient is also available as a 500g pack. The only differentiation between the two on GPASS is that the cream is listed as 500g pump. Epaderm® Emollient is listed within the preferred List of the *Formulary*. Epaderm® Cream is currently non-Formulary. Care should be taken when prescribing/dispensing to ensure the desired formulation is selected.

FERROUS FUMARATE INDICATOR

UPDATE: We have been monitoring the situation on reported supply problems with ferrous fumarate preparations. These now appear to be available as normal and practices working on this indicator may commence switching patients.

DON'T WASTE MEDICINES CAMPAIGN

We included details of the Don't waste medicines campaign in last months bulletin, the following posters will be displayed in all practices and community pharmacies in addition to other public places such as libraries. Watch out for the TV and radio trailers!

Help us work together to save on

WASTED MEDICINES

Unused medicines cost the NHS in Scotland almost

£100 Million every year

Help us to help you!

- **THINK**
before you order repeat medicines
- **CHECK**
what medicine you still have - and only
- **ORDER**
what you need



Did you know that your unused medicines cannot be recycled or used by anyone else, but for safe disposal they should be returned to your pharmacy

NHS
Greater Glasgow and Clyde
www.nhs.gov.uk

SIP FEED GUIDELINE: A new guideline on the use of sip feeds has recently been approved for use in primary care. A copy of this document can be found attached to this bulletin. For more information about the use of sip feeds please contact Vicki Welch on 0141 201 5157.