

# PostScript - Primary Care

**May 2011**

## **GLUTEN FREE PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES:**

As you may be aware, over the last couple of years, we have had regular enquiries from General Practitioners and CH(C)P Prescribing Support Pharmacists looking for guidance on what quantities of prescribable gluten free products are reasonable for individual patients within Primary Care. Enquiring GPs and CH(C)P Prescribing Support Pharmacists have always been directed to the Coeliac UK guidelines. The Coeliac UK guidelines only have a few examples of the number of units a product equates to and because of this are not very user friendly. The attached guideline was produced to make it easier to quantify the number of units a patient is ordering by having the units that relate to individual gluten free products alongside the product.

Taking on board all the comments that we received about restricting the gluten free prescribable list, we currently have not restricted the variety of gluten free products available on prescription here in GGC. The list of products is the full ACBS approved gluten free prescribable list.

### **Where these guidelines differ from those produced by Coeliac UK:-**

- 1) We have added the units for each product onto the prescribable list so it is quick and easy to quantify how many units a person is looking to order per month.
- 2) We have highlighted the Gluten and Wheat free options so it is easier to differentiate between them.
- 3) We are using recommended quantities per month rather than minimum quantities.

Please find attached at the end of this bulletin the new GGC Gluten Free Prescribing

Guidelines that were ratified by the Prescribing Management Group Primary Care (PMG-PC) last month.



These guidelines will be updated quarterly and will be available on staffnet shortly alongside the other nutritional prescribing guidelines in the clinical information section and also on the CH(C)P Pharmacy Support Team site.

## **NEW GGC CONTRACT FOR SIP FEEDS:**

NHS Scotland has recently reviewed the provision of sip feeds and a new contract for Greater Glasgow and Clyde has been awarded to **Abbott** who manufacture the **Ensure® Plus** range of products.

The contracts team assessed the range of products available and agreed that the Ensure Plus range

- Provides flexibility of product choices to meet patient needs
- Provides a wide range of flavours
- Demonstrates an improved taste preference over the Fortisip range
- Is nutritionally comparable to other similar products

The contract had previously been with Nutricia who supply the Fortisip® range of products. Any patients, prescribed the Fortisip® range will be switched to an equivalent Ensure® Plus product with the support of pharmacy and dietetics. Any patients who are on a sip feed where there is no directly comparable product will receive a dietitian review.

Nutricia were awarded the enteral feeding (Tube Feed) section of the contract, along with the home delivery and support services.

For further information please contact Vicki Welch on 0141 201 5928 or by email on [vicki.welch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:vicki.welch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

## **BLOOD KETONE TESTING STRIPS:**

GPs are reminded that the Diabetes MCN still advise the use of urinary ketone testing when necessary. The MCN does not advocate the routine use of blood ketone testing strips. These should be restricted to those who have completed the Diet Adjustment For Normal Eating (DAFNE) or are on an insulin pump, but only for use when ill.

### **SMOKEFREE PREGNANCY SERVICES:**

#### **Smokefree Pregnancy Service (SPS) update for GP practices**

Since February/March 2011 the Smokefree Pregnancy Service has been re-established across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. We now have three full-time smoking cessation advisors delivering smoking cessation support. The support is being delivered in all the main maternity hospital sites across Greater Glasgow and Clyde and in twelve community venues across Glasgow. We also have one telephone number for all referrals to be directed to. The number is **0141 201 2335**. This is manned by the service administrator. In addition an answer machine is in place. **All referrals/enquiries will now be directed to this number.** The service will direct all women who request NRT to their local pharmacy. **If you would like to refer someone to our service please either call the number yourself or give your patient the telephone number.**

### **ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN CDs BY DECEPTION:**

We have been made aware by the police of an individual who has been posing as a pharmacist or a doctor and has used his position to obtain supplies of CDs. Although this is not a local incident, it is a good reminder that registration and references should always be checked before employing any healthcare professional. Anyone with concerns about attempts to obtain CDs by deception should contact the CD Governance Team on 0141 201 5348

### **SIGN GUIDELINE ACCESS:**

Developed by SIGN in collaboration with Root Creative, Glasgow, the app for the Apple iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. It contains quick reference guides (QRG) of some recently published guidelines. The QRG content is enhanced with material from the main guideline and online resources.

This new format will be particularly useful for frontline healthcare professionals. The app features keyword search and bookmarking and access to the SIGN website and is available for free from the Apple App Store.

### **DR ANDREW POWER:**

Dr Andrew Power has left the Prescribing Team in NHS GGC to take up a post as a medical legal adviser with the Medical Protection Society. So having managed to cope with working with a multidisciplinary team full of pharmacists we are sure that a multidisciplinary team full of lawyers won't cause him any problems!

Andy joined the Glasgow prescribing team back in 1996 and has been involved in many developments over that time. He developed the first GP prescribing incentive scheme back in 1999 which was back in the days when GP fundholding was still in place for some practices. This scheme was the first time that non-fundholding practices had financial recognition, for the additional work, to make changes in prescribing practice. He also initiated the data analyst role in Glasgow which has improved monitoring and the forecasting of prescribing patterns and expenditure. These have supported prescribing indicator development and the prescribing elements of the nGMS contract.

Andy has long held an interest in improving the quality of practice and the quality of decision making for healthcare policy. He was involved first with GP practice accreditation and latterly for many years with GP appraisal. Andy has been a member of various committees of the Scottish Medicines Consortium since its inception almost ten years ago and was vice chair of the New Drugs Subcommittee for six years. He has been a key member of the Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committee in Glasgow all through his career with the Prescribing Team. He set up and has continued to be the web master for the NHSGGC Formulary website.

Andy continued his clinical work throughout this time with a regular practice session as well as out of hours work and has been an advocate for GPs in all dealings with health board management.

We wish him well in his new post.