# **PostScript**Acute



Issue 9, February 2013 • Produced by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Medicines Information Service

#### In this issue:

- Electronic medicines reconciliation
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- Reminder Gentamicin
- Reminder Vancomycin
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Information included is specific to the use of medicines in the **adult** setting.

# 1. Electronic Medicines Reconciliation (eMR)

An accurate medication history is essential for making safe & effective treatment decisions, and to ensure medicines are not incorrectly prescribed or unintentionally omitted. Medicines Reconciliation (MR) is a structured approach to taking a medication history which aims to establish an up to date and accurate list of medicines being taken by the patient on admission and record whether medicines are to continue, stop or be withheld.

NHS GGC has now introduced an electronic Medicines Reconciliation (eMR) form to aid the MR process.

#### Key points to know about the eMR

- The eMR links directly to the medicines and allergy information in the emergency care summary (ECS) and pulls this information into the form for the prescriber to check and edit as required. MR involves checking 2 medicines information sources. Additional medicines information from a second source can be added to the form.
- The eMR aims to improve process efficiency and reduce the risk of transcription errors. It can be used for all in-patients and clinical teams should incorporate eMR into their clerk-in process.
- Completed eMR forms are saved in the clinical portal. A hard copy can be printed off, if required,

- to facilitate local workflow. The completed eMR is an important source of information for reconciling medicines at discharge and completing the Immediate Discharge Letter (IDL).
- Work is underway to explore the feasibility of linking completed eMR forms with the TrakCare IDL to improve medicines reconciliation at discharge.

eMR

Access via IT helpdesk
(#650)

Request to be added
to the 'eForms Group'
within Clinical Portal

 Further information is available by clicking on eMR.

## 2. BNF smartphone apps

The NICE BNF and BNFC (British National Formulary for Children) smartphone applications are now available for download by healthcare professionals. Click here for further information.



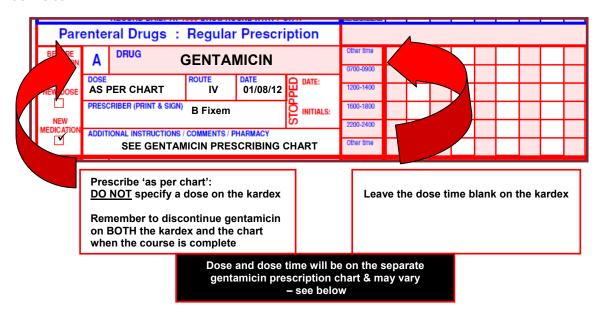
## 3. Reminder: How to Prescribe & Administer Gentamicin

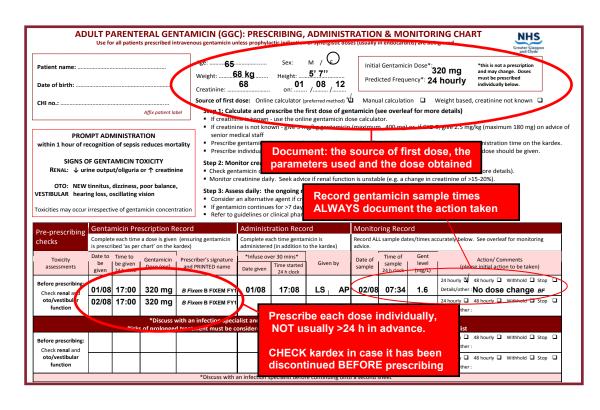
The new NHSGGC gentamicin prescription, administration and monitoring chart has been in use since August 2012. Audit of in use gentamicin charts and a review of the August to October 2012 medication incident data illustrate a few cases where there was an apparent deviation from the agreed processes for prescribing gentamicin. Further

educational sessions are planned for all healthcare professionals involved in the use of gentamicin early 2013. In the meantime, here is a reminder of key practice points for medical and nursing staff.

Please continue to report all incidents and near misses on Datix.

### Medical Staff





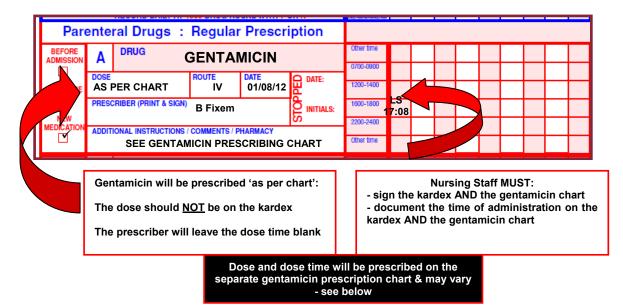
## 3. Reminder: How to Prescribe & Administer Gentamicin (cont'd)

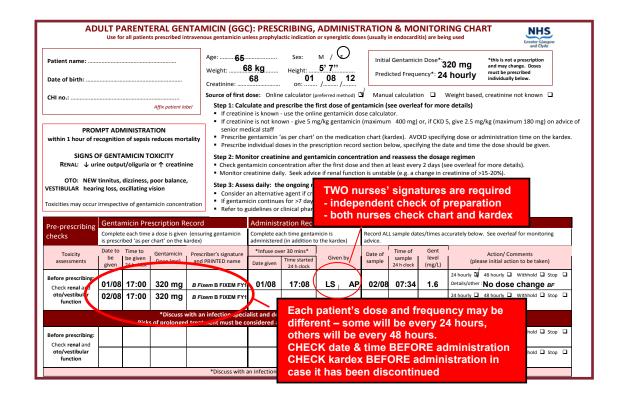
## **Nursing Staff**

PostScript Acute

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## 4. Reminder: Vancomycin

A new national chart for the prescribing, administration and monitoring of vancomycin is expected this year. In the meantime, **existing** arrangements remain:

#### In Glasgow hospitals

- vancomycin should be prescribed on the kardex with dose and dose frequency information. It should NOT be prescribed 'as per chart'.
- the separate monitoring chart is ONLY to be used to record administration and vancomycin blood concentrations. Dose changes MUST be made on the kardex as the chart is NOT a prescription.

## In Clyde hospitals

- vancomycin should be prescribed on the kardex 'as per chart'.
- the current vancomycin prescription, administration and monitoring chart remains in use.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the antimicrobial pharmacy team (contact details available on page 338 of the Therapeutics Handbook)

## 5. Guideline news

SIGN & NICE clinical guidelines and GGC guidelines approved by the Medicines Utilisation & Prescriber Education subgroup of the ADTC, since October 2012 are highlighted:

#### **NHSGGC Acute Care Guidelines**

<u>Prescribing guidance for the use of</u> dexmedetomidine

Treatment of macular oedema secondary to central retinal vein occlusion using ranibizumab

### **SIGN Clinical Guidelines**

No new guidelines since October 2012

**NICE Clinical Guidelines** 

Psoriasis (CG 153)

Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage (CG 154)

## 6. Review of PostScript Bulletins

*PostScript Acute* is one of 4 PostScript bulletins of relevance to the acute sector.



Following a review of the dissemination of key drug safety messages in NHSGGC, junior doctor feedback questioned the need for all the different bulletins.

"...So there is PostScript Acute, PostScript Safety,
PostScript and PostScript Extra? That's a lot." (FY1)

"Do you think it is necessary to have all four?" (FY1)

In response, PostScript Safety will no longer exist as a separate bulletin. Safety messages will be strengthened within the remaining PostScript Family targeted at the most relevant publication.

The publication schedule for *PostScript* (covering clinical topics for all sectors of the NHS) and *Postscript Acute* (addressing prescribing and clinical issues specific to the acute sector) has been altered. These will be published bimonthly on the first Monday of alternate months. *PostScript Extra* (summary of evidence base for specific medicines) will continue to be produced on an ad-hoc basis.

View all PostScript publications at www.ggcprescribing.org.uk

Subscribe to any of the PostScript publications by sending an email to postscript@ggc.scot.nhs.uk