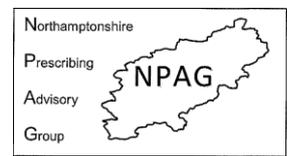


NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP
(Advising Medical and Pharmacy Practitioners and Non-Medical Prescribers on prescribing across the county)
Summary of Recommendations from meeting on
Wednesday 12th December 2018

- **Octenilin wound irrigation solution and Octenilin wash**
Octenilin wound irrigation solution is occasionally recommended by the Tissue Viability Nurses for infected wounds, or those at high risk of infection. Octenilin wash is advised for decontamination by the Infection Prevention and Control teams.
NPAG classified Octenilin wound irrigation solution and Octenilin wash as Amber 2
- **Naltrexone for pruritus**
NPAG agreed that naltrexone should be an option for patients with pruritus resistant to other treatments.
NPAG classified it as Amber 2
- **Actipatch**
Actipatch is marketed as a product which reduces pain by providing Pulsed Electromagnetic Stimulation and is intended to treat pain. The evidence for benefit is not robust. It is available without a prescription, but has recently been added to the Drug Tariff.
NPAG classified it as a Double Red IFR.
- **Semaglutide**
Semaglutide is a new GLP-1 agonist. NPAG agreed it as an option for insufficiently controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus in adults, as an add-on therapy to oral antidiabetic medicines or basal insulin. It is not recommended for use as monotherapy when metformin is considered inappropriate due to intolerance or contraindications.
NPAG classified it as Amber 2
- **Levosert**
Levosert is a progesterone secreting intrauterine system which is similar to Mirena. Levosert's licence has recently been extended to 5 years the same as Mirena, but it is less expensive.
NPAG classified it as Green
- **Medicinal Cannabis Products**
There have been recent changes to the legislation governing medicinal cannabis products. These products may only be prescribed by clinicians listed on the specialist register the GMC. GPs are not permitted to prescribe.
NPAG classified it as Red
- **Dutasteride**
Dutasteride is a 5 alpha reductase inhibitor similar to finasteride. As generic versions are now available **NPAG classified it as Green, but finasteride remains first line.**
- **Darbepoetin**
Treatment of anaemia with darbepoetin for patients on dialysis is commissioned by NHS England. However GPs may be asked to prescribe for patients with renal failure who are not on dialysis.
NPAG classified it as Red for patients on dialysis
NPAG classified it as Amber 2 for patients not on dialysis

Further information or clinical trial data may be obtained from the CCG Prescribing Advisers or Hospital Medicines Information Service.

Information in this bulletin is believed to be true and accurate. The NHS and their employees accept no liability for loss of any nature, to persons, organisations or institutions that may arise as a result of any errors or omissions.



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- **VSL#3**

VSL#3 is a probiotic and can no longer be prescribed on the NHS in primary care as it has been removed from the Drug Tariff. Patients should be advised to purchase over the counter if they wish to continue to take it.

NPAG classified it as Double Red IFR

- **Trimovate**

There have been supply issues with the Trimovate for a while. As the only stock available is not licensed in the UK and is very expensive the local dermatologists have advised that alternatives should be prescribed unless it has been specifically recommended.

NPAG classified it as Amber 2

- **Fusacomb**

Fusacomb is a new “branded generic” dry powder inhaler containing salmeterol and fluticasone. **NPAG classified it as Green in-line with other similar products.**

Note - fluticasone containing products are not first line in local asthma and COPD guidelines. If a low dose salmeterol and fluticasone preparation is required then Combisal 25/50 (licensed for children 4 years and above) is the preferred choice. If higher dose preparations are required then AirfluSal (stock is available) is the product of choice.

- **Shared Care Protocols:**

- A shared care letter has been agreed for opicapone for Parkinson’s disease.

- **Guidelines:**

- **Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) Guidelines**

The guidance on prescribing Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) in Adults in Primary Care has been updated following a review of available products. There is now also an ONS Quick Guide 2018 which lists the preferred ONS and Thickener products.

- **Vitamin B Compound/Vitamin B Compound Strong**

A new guideline on vitamin supplementation in patients at risk of Wernicke’s encephalopathy has been approved. NICE Clinical Guideline (CG100) for Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis and management of physical complications <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg100> recommends that only thiamine is prescribed for patients at risk of Wernicke’s encephalopathy. This means that in primary care vitamin B compound or compound strong tablets should not be prescribed. Local specialists have agreed that patients with, or at risk of re-feeding syndrome will have it prescribed for 28 days at discharge. OTC products are available for patients who wish to have a Vitamin B dietary supplement.

This edition is also available on the GP Portal via the following links

<http://gp.neneccg.nhs.uk/> <http://gp.corbyccg.nhs.uk/>