

# theT@bilet

News from Medicines Management at Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group

## Nicorandil now firmly second line

The manufacturer of nicorandil (Ikorel®) has written to healthcare professionals advising of new restrictions to the licensed indication and additional contraindications and warnings.

Nicorandil is now recommended for the treatment of stable angina in patients whose angina is inadequately controlled by first line treatments or who have a contraindication or intolerance to first line treatments. First line treatments include beta blockers and calcium channel blockers.

It is also noted that nicorandil can cause serious skin, mucosal and eye ulceration that persists unless treatment is stopped. Treatment must be stopped if any ulceration develops and cardiologist advice sought if angina symptoms worsen. Patients with diverticular disease may be at increased risk of fistula formation or bowel perforation. Patients taking aspirin, NSAIDs or corticosteroids are at increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration.

Nicorandil should be used cautiously in combination with medicines that increase potassium levels, especially in patients with moderate to severe renal impairment.

**Action:** Clinicians should be aware of these new restrictions and remain vigilant for ulceration in patients taking nicorandil.

[Click here](#) for attached document.

## Nefopam - safer medication use

Nefopam is a centrally acting non-opioid analgesic with associated anti-muscarinic and anti-histaminergic effects licensed for the relief of acute and chronic pain.

Most of the studies assessing the efficacy of nefopam are either single dose or short term based; the majority of these involve parenteral administration.

Adverse effects are common and include nausea, sweating, dizziness, vomiting, hallucinations, confusion, urinary retention, headache, insomnia, tachycardia, palpitations convulsions and anaphylaxis.

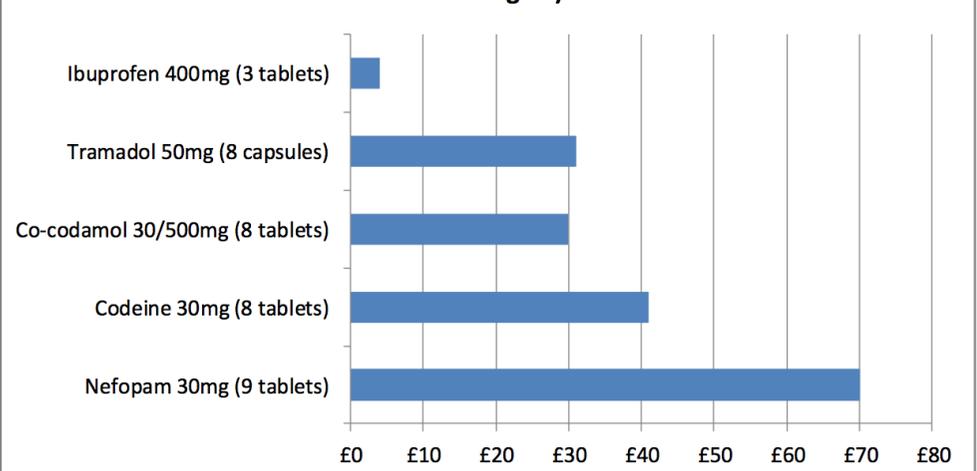
Nefopam is toxic in overdose with observed clinical manifestations including seizures, ventricular tachycardia, acute renal failure, and cerebral oedema.

### Bottom line:

- Nefopam is not included in the Doncaster Formulary.
- Nefopam appears no more potent than NSAIDs, but is relatively expensive, commonly associated with adverse drug reactions and toxic in overdose.
- Prescribers need to consider carefully whether the anticipated benefits outweigh the risks, especially in high risk groups including the elderly. Treatment should be reviewed regularly and stopped if benefits are not seen in the short term.

[RDTC Safer Medication Use No 14 January 2015 - Nefopam](#)

Cost of 28 days treatment (Drug Tariff December 2015, PSNC.org.uk)



## CQC CD GP myth-buster

The safe management of CDs has been the subject of discussion in many of the practices the CQC have visited.

The CQC have updated their [CD GP myth-buster](#), which now summarises the current requirements and provides some practical guidance for practices.

## Is there an interaction between warfarin and proton pump inhibitors?

UKMiQ&A 66.6 - [Is there an interaction between warfarin and proton pump inhibitors?](#)

### Summary:

- Generally, the evidence for an interaction between warfarin and proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) is poor, but rarely and unpredictably raised INRs and bleeding may occur.
- In practice, whilst there is no reason for avoiding concurrent use of any PPI with warfarin, close monitoring of the prothrombin time or INR may be required.
- If any increase in the INR is seen, the dose of warfarin should be adjusted as necessary to maintain the desired level of anticoagulation.

[BNF - interactions: PPIs](#)

## Controlled drugs: changes to reporting of incidents

With immediate effect the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer (CDAO) for NHS England Yorkshire and Humber is now Gillian Laurence.

The administration of this function will be undertaken by a new central CDAO team based in Leeds. Incidents should be reported now via a central mailbox: [England.yhcdao@nhs.net](mailto:England.yhcdao@nhs.net)

In the event of a serious CD incident or concern please contact the Leeds office on **0113 8253300**. The CCG still retains delegated authority to investigate any incidents and therefore you may still be contacted by a member of the Medicines Management Team.

## New mandatory Controlled Drugs (CDs) requisition form

The use of an approved form for the requisitioning of Schedule 2 and 3 CDs is now mandatory.

- Legal requirements for a CD requisition:
- Signature of the recipient
- Name of the recipient
- Address of the recipient
- Profession or occupation
- Total quantity of drug: does not have to be in words and figures
- Purpose of requisition e.g. for use in medical practice
- 

Professionals can complete the form electronically but it must be signed in wet ink.

**Obtaining forms:** The FP10CDF CD Requisition Form can be downloaded from [NHSBSA](#) website. Home Office [update](#).

## Taking CDs abroad

Patients should obtain a personal licence to enter or leave the UK if they are travelling with CDs listed under schedules 2-4 (e.g. morphine, tramadol, diazepam) for 3 calendar months or more.

They should apply at least 10 working days before they are due to travel. Patients will need to obtain a letter from their GP or drug worker and send this with the Home Office (HO) [application form](#) to the specified address. The letter must confirm:

- patient name
- travel itinerary
- list of prescribed CDs
- total quantities and dosages for each drug

A licence is not required if a person is travelling for less than 3 months and carrying less than 3 months' supply of schedule 2-4 CDs. However, it is advised that a covering letter from the prescriber or drug worker is obtained, which confirms the information above. They may have to show this letter when going through customs.

Patients should also check the import/export regulations for CDs for the countries they are travelling to or through by contacting their [embassy/high commission](#) in the UK. It would be prudent for patients to check any additional requirements that their travel operator/airline company may impose.

The HO personal licence application form and detailed information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/controlled-drugs-licences-fees-and-returns>

## Atrial fibrillation (AF) decision support tool

NICE have endorsed a [decision support tool](#) designed to assist the appropriate prescribing of anticoagulation therapy for the prevention of stroke in patients with AF. [Initiation of anticoagulation for prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in AF – quick reference guide](#).

Action: Clinicians may wish to explore the functionality of this decision-making tool.