

# theT@bulet

News from Medicines Management at Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group

## Reminder for healthcare professionals

[Spironolactone and renin-angiotensin system drugs in heart failure](#): risk of potentially fatal hyperkalaemia. Reminder for healthcare professionals:

- Concomitant use of spironolactone with ACEi or ARB is not routinely recommended because of the risks of severe hyperkalaemia, particularly in patients with marked renal impairment
- Use the lowest effective doses of spironolactone and ACEi or ARB if co-administration is considered essential
- [Regularly monitor](#) serum potassium levels and renal function
- Interrupt or discontinue treatment in the event of hyperkalaemia
- Suspected adverse reactions should be reported to the [MHRA](#) on a [Yellow Card](#).

If a person is still symptomatic despite optimal treatment with ACEi (or ARB) and beta-blocker, refer for specialist review and advice regarding the addition of further. Drug treatments. [NICE CKS Heart failure - chronic](#)

## Diabetes in pregnancy

[NICE QS109 - Diabetes in pregnancy - Quality statement 1: High-dose folic acid](#). Women with [type 1 or type 2] diabetes planning a pregnancy are prescribed 5 mg/day folic acid from at least 3 months before conception [until 12 weeks of gestation]. Action: Ensure all healthcare professionals who may interact with this cohort of women are aware of the 5mg dose requirement for folic acid.

## Antimicrobial guidelines – update

The revised [Doncaster antimicrobial guidelines for primary care](#) are now available on the [Medicines Management website](#). Action: Ensure all prescribers including locums have easy access to local [antimicrobial guidelines](#). Access the latest high risk antibiotics report from The PBCi Portal and review your practices' prescribing.

## Co-amoxiclav prescribing by secondary care – restrictions and authorisation process

Co-amoxiclav prescribing in secondary care is restricted. It is reserved as a second or third-line treatment option, excepting selected approved indications: these include hospital-acquired pneumonia/aspiration pneumonia or hepato-biliary sepsis, which account for the majority of in-patient prescribing. When co-amoxiclav is prescribed outside approved indications, authorisation is required by a consultant microbiologist.

## Haloperidol 5mg/ml injection – continued shortage

There is an on-going supply issue with haloperidol 5mg/ml injection, which is estimated to resolve in the last quarter 2016. Oral formulations of haloperidol have not been affected.

**Palliative care:** The Palliative Care Team have advised that where an injectable preparation is required, the first-line anti-emetic is now levomepromazine 6.25mg four times a day when required subcutaneously or up to 25mg over 24 hours via a syringe driver: maximum 25mg/24hours. Levomepromazine injection ([Nozinan](#)) is available as 25mg/ml ampoules for injection: 0.25ml provides a 6.25mg dose.

**Note:** Avoid prescribing of cyclizine via continuous subcutaneous infusion as it is incompatible with hyoscine butylbromide ([Buscopan Ampoules](#)) and therefore requires an additional syringe driver.

**Other specialities:** Prescribe a suitable alternative, seeking advice from a specialist if appropriate

## Registration of practice employed Non-Medical Prescribers

NMPs are required to be registered with the [NHS Business Services Authority \(NHSBSA\)](#) to enable them to prescribe for practices with the correct code and on the appropriate budget. The registration process can only be undertaken by the CCG Medicines Management Team. A Standard Operating Procedure has been developed to support practices and help guide them through the process: it is available on the [Medicines Management website](#). If you require any help or further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team: 01302 566229 (Monday to Friday 10:00 to 16:00) or [MedicinesManagementAdmin@doncasterccg.nhs.uk](mailto:MedicinesManagementAdmin@doncasterccg.nhs.uk).

Action: Please ensure all NMPs at your practice are registered with [NHSBSA](#).