

the T@blet

News from Medicines Management at Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group

First line oral nutritional supplements (ONS)

RDASH FT [dietetic service](#) are supportive of the following switches in patients **EXCLUDING PEG-fed patients**:

- Fortisip Compact to Ensure Compact.
- Fortisip to Ensure Plus milkshake style.
- Fortijuice to Ensure Plus Juice.

Clinicians are reminded to follow the [Malnutrition Guidelines for Primary Care](#) and asked to prescribe the above Ensure products first line when ONSs are indicated.

Eyelid care – Blephaclean and associated preparations

The APC are aware that GPs are sometimes asked to prescribe brands of wipes for eyelid care, for example Blephaclean.

These products are not recommended for prescribing and have been given a **grey** classification by the APC. They are **non-formulary items**.

Patients should be advised that the product can be purchased from community pharmacy or local healthcare stores.

NHSE launches 12 week consultation on specialised gender identity services for adults

GPs are urged to put forward their views on two proposed service specifications: one for how Gender Identity Clinics will deliver specialised outpatient services; and another for how surgical units will deliver surgical interventions. The consultation is open until 30 September 2017.

[Link to consultation guide, service specifications and survey](#)

Tramadol – suicide risk

Tramadol is one of the most common and effective drugs in suicide by overdose (Ref: Doncaster Public Health). Doncaster is one of the highest prescribers of tramadol in the country.

Action:

- Afford due consideration to the risk of suicide with tramadol when managing pain in patients with increased risk factors.
- Prescribe a limited number of tablets to reduce the risk of overdose.
- Avoid concomitant medicines that may increase the risk of toxicity.
- Advise patients store tablets securely, out of sight and reach of children.
- In cases of overdose, patients should seek immediate medical attention.
- Review risk: benefit for established patients.

[Brimonidine gel: risk of systemic cardiovascular effects; not to be applied to damaged skin](#)

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- cases of bradycardia, hypotension (including orthostatic hypotension), and dizziness after application of brimonidine gel have been reported, some of which required hospitalisation
- some cases were associated with application of brimonidine gel after laser procedures to the skin, which possibly caused increased absorption of the gel
- warn patients not to apply brimonidine gel to irritated or damaged skin, including after laser therapy to the

Pregabalin prescribing – new guidance

[NHS England guidance](#) states that prescribing of pregabalin for treatment of any condition should now be in accordance with normal practice.

The Shared Care Protocol for **Rheumatology Conditions** has been updated. As part of this review mycophenolate has been reclassified from Red to Amber. Patients continue to be monitored via the TA MONITOR process at DBH FT. The paperwork is available on the medicines management website

<http://medicinesmanagement.doncasterccg.nhs.uk/shared-care/shared-care-drugs/>

[Management of Vitamin D in Adults - clarification](#)

Guidance on the management of vitamin D deficiency in adults has been updated on the link above to clarify that routine treatment may be considered when rapid treatment is

Area Prescribing Committee News

Midodrine for patients with postural hypotension has now been categorised as Amber G. A licensed preparation is now available. The guidance to support prescribing can be found at:

<http://medicinesmanagement.doncasterccg.nhs.uk/guidelines/>

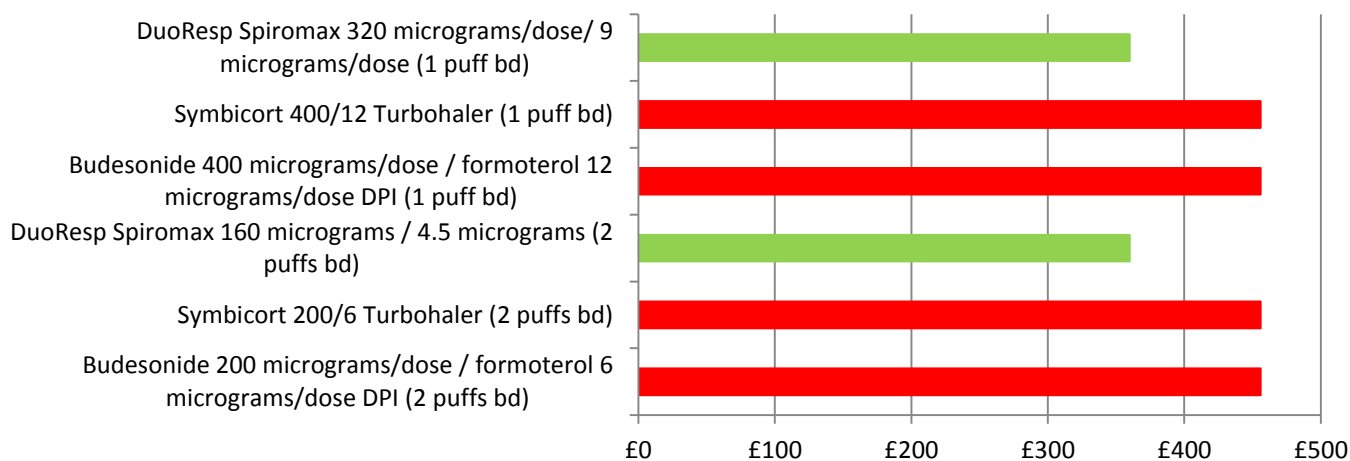
The Shared Care Protocol for the use of oral N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) in the management of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis in Adults has been updated and is available on the medicines management website.

<http://medicinesmanagement.doncasterccg.nhs.uk/shared-care/shared-care-drugs/>

Budesonide/formoterol medium/high strength dry powder inhalers (DPIs)

The [Drug Tariff](#) currently reimburses pharmacy contractors for Symbicort Turbohaler when budesonide/formoterol DPIs are prescribed generically.

Annual cost Drug Tariff August 2017 and EMIS Web



DuoResp Spiromax and Symbicort Turbohaler contain the same active ingredients in different devices, so should be prescribed by **brand**.

DuoResp Spiromax has demonstrated non-inferiority to Symbicort Turbohaler.¹ DuoResp Spiromax 320 micrograms/9 micrograms is licensed for asthma and COPD: DuoResp Spiromax 160 micrograms/4.5 micrograms is also licensed for asthma maintenance and reliever therapy.²

Action:

- Prescribe **DuoResp Spiromax first line** when an ICS/LABA DPI is indicated for an **adult with asthma**. Note: [Relvar 92/22 Eliпта](#) is the formulary ICS/LABA DPI for COPD.
- Consider **branding/switching adults** prescribed budesonide 200 micrograms/dose / formoterol 6 micrograms/dose DPI or Symbicort 200/6 Turbohaler to **DuoResp Spiromax 160 micrograms/4.5 micrograms** at their next respiratory review.
- Consider **branding/switching adults** prescribed budesonide 400 micrograms/dose / formoterol 12 micrograms/dose DPI or Symbicort 400/12 Turbohaler to **DuoResp Spiromax 320 micrograms/9 micrograms** at their next respiratory review.
- Counsel the patient on the correct use of the new device.
- Counsel on possible differences in feel or taste.

[Formulary inhalers for asthma and COPD](#)

¹ Virchow JC, Gopalan G, Rodriguez-Roisin R et al. Efficacy and safety of budesonide–formoterol (BF) Spiromax® in adults and adolescents with asthma: randomised comparison with BF Turbohaler. Presented at the BTS WINTER MEETING, London, UK, 03–05 December 2014.