

the T@blet

News from Medicines Management at Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS England: Controlled drugs clear dosing instructions

A patient safety issue has been highlighted in a coroner's report in relation to a patient who was prescribed liquid morphine (Schedule 5 CD) who later died through misadventure.

The medication label printed was *"take as directed by your doctor every four hours"*.

Although the prescription was issued and dispensed in keeping with regulations, England would like to remind all relevant health care professionals of the guidance contained in the [BNF](#) and [NICE guideline 46 "Controlled Drugs, Safe Use and Management"](#) that it is considered best practice to include:

- clear dosing instructions on the prescription
- clear dosing instruction on the corresponding medicine label, such as the individual unit dose and maximum total daily dose.

Solu-Medrone 40 mg: do not use in patients with cows' milk allergy

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- [Solu-Medrone 40 mg](#) uses lactose produced from cows' milk as an excipient and may contain trace amounts of milk proteins; other strengths of Solu-Medrone do not contain lactose
- serious allergic reactions have been reported in patients allergic to cows' milk proteins
- do not use injectable methylprednisolone medicines that contain lactose in patients with a known or suspected allergy to cows' milk
- if a patient's symptoms worsen or any new allergic symptoms occur, allergic reaction to cows' milk proteins should be suspected; stop administration of the product and treat the patient's condition accordingly

Gabapentin (Neurontin): risk of severe respiratory depression

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- a) Be aware of the risk of CNS depression, including severe respiratory depression, with gabapentin
- b) Consider whether dose adjustments might be necessary in patients at higher risk of respiratory depression, including elderly people, patients with compromised respiratory function, respiratory or neurological disease, or renal impairment, and patients taking other CNS depressants
- c) Report any suspected adverse reactions on a [Yellow Card](#)

Live attenuated vaccines - update to Green Book

In an [April 2016 Drug Safety Update](#) the [MHRA](#) gave advice to avoid live attenuated vaccines in infants exposed to immunosuppressive treatment from the mother either in utero or via breastfeeding.

[PHE](#) has now updated [chapter 6 of the Green Book](#) to specify that children born of mothers who were on immunosuppressive biological therapy during pregnancy will not be eligible to receive rotavirus vaccine (and will need to defer BCG, if indicated, for 6 months). If there is any doubt as to whether an infant due to receive a live-attenuated vaccine may be immunosuppressed due to the mother's therapy, including exposure through breastfeeding, specialist advice should be sought.

Doncaster District Continence Formulary - update

This Formulary should be used to inform the initiation of continence products.

Particular catheter bags may be initiated in secondary care; however they may be swapped to an equivalent formulary product in primary care.

[Clozapine: reminder of potentially fatal risk of intestinal obstruction, faecal impaction, and paralytic ileus](#)

If constipation occurs during treatment with clozapine ([Clozaril](#), [Denzapine](#), [Zaponex](#)), it is vital that it is recognised and actively treated.

Advice to healthcare professionals

- the antipsychotic drug clozapine has been associated with varying degrees of impairment of intestinal peristalsis; this effect can range from constipation, which is very common, to very rare intestinal obstruction, faecal impaction, and paralytic ileus
- exercise particular care in patients receiving other drugs known to cause constipation (especially those with anticholinergic properties), patients with a history of colonic disease or lower abdominal surgery, and in patients aged 60 years and older
- clozapine is contraindicated in patients with paralytic ileus
- advise patients to report constipation immediately
- actively treat any constipation that occurs

Recording specialist prescribing:

[Clozapine](#) is classified [Red](#): remember to document specialist prescribing.

[Outline of the process for the recording of Medication prescribed by Secondary/Tertiary care onto GP Clinical Support Systems.](#)

Hepatitis B: vaccine recommendations during supply constraints

Public Health England has updated the Hepatitis B immunisation recommendations in light of the recent global shortages of hepatitis B vaccine affecting the UK supply. These recommendations include advice on the use of [alternative vaccines](#) and prioritisation to preserve hepatitis B vaccine stock for those at highest immediate need.

[Consultation on proposals to schedule pregabalin and gabapentin under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001](#)

This consultation seeks views on options whether, and how, to schedule pregabalin and gabapentin under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

[Respond online](#) or email to

DrugLegislationTeam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk by 11:45pm on 22 January 2018.

Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management

[NICE NG80](#) covers diagnosing, monitoring and managing asthma in adults, young people and children. It aims to improve the accuracy of diagnosis, help people to control their asthma and reduce the risk of asthma attacks.

[Recommendations](#) include:

- Principles of pharmacological treatment
- Pharmacological treatment pathways
- Adherence
- Self-management
- Increasing ICS treatment within a self-management programme
- Decreasing maintenance therapy

Branded generic switches

The Medicines Management Technicians are leading a programme of branded generic switches:

- Methylphenidate modified-release tablets/Concerta XL tablets 18mg/27mg/36mg to [Delmosart modified-release tablets](#) 18mg/27mg/36mg
- Ropinirole modified-release tablets/Requip XL tablets 2mg/4mg/8mg to [Repinex XL tablets](#) 2mg/4mg/8mg
- Tolterodine modified-release capsules/Detrusitol XL capsules 4mg to [Neditol XL capsules 4mg](#)

These switches are being undertaken to support the cost saving element of the Medicines Management QIPP agenda and we would be grateful for Practices and Community Pharmacies in supporting this work.

[Shortage of tranexamic acid tablets 500mg \(all brands\)](#)

There are currently limited supplies of generic tranexamic acid 500mg tablets due to difficulty obtaining raw material.

[Cyklokapron](#), [Cyklo-f](#) and some generic tranexamic acid 500mg tablets continue to be remain available; however there may be intermittent supplies issues until at least 2018.