

The T@blet

News from the Medicines Management Team

Issue 5 2018

[Click here](#) for key indicator comparisons between practices and localities

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Priority information | 1 |
| Benzodiazepines and suicide – prevention of future deaths | 1 |
| Routine information | 2 |
| Harmful or dependent drinkers – vitamin B supplementation | 2 |
| Bath/shower emollients | 2 |
| Keppra – switch to levetiracetam | 3 |
| APC News | 3 |
| Shared Cared Protocol/Pathway update for the management of ADHD in adults, young people and Children | 3 |
| Adult Growth Hormone (Somatropin) Shared Care Protocol | 3 |
| ActiPatch..... | 3 |

PRIORITY INFORMATION

BENZODIAZEPINES AND SUICIDE – PREVENTION OF FUTURE DEATHS

In response to a coroner's report, NHS England & NHS Improvement have written a [letter](#) seeking help to ensure that all prescribers and pharmacists are reminded of the need for vigilance when prescribing benzodiazepine.

Remember the importance of:

1. The need for regular and close monitoring of patients who are withdrawing from benzodiazepines;
2. The need to consider the particular risks associated with shorter acting benzodiazepines;
3. The existence and continued relevance of guidance from [NICE](#) and [BAP](#) on prescribing/withdrawal of benzodiazepines.

ROUTINE INFORMATION

HARMFUL OR DEPENDENT DRINKERS – VITAMIN B SUPPLEMENTATION

[NICE CG115/CG100](#) do not recommend vitamin B compound (co) or vitamin B co strong tablets: [RDaSH](#) and [DBTHFT](#) policies reflect [NICE](#) guidance.

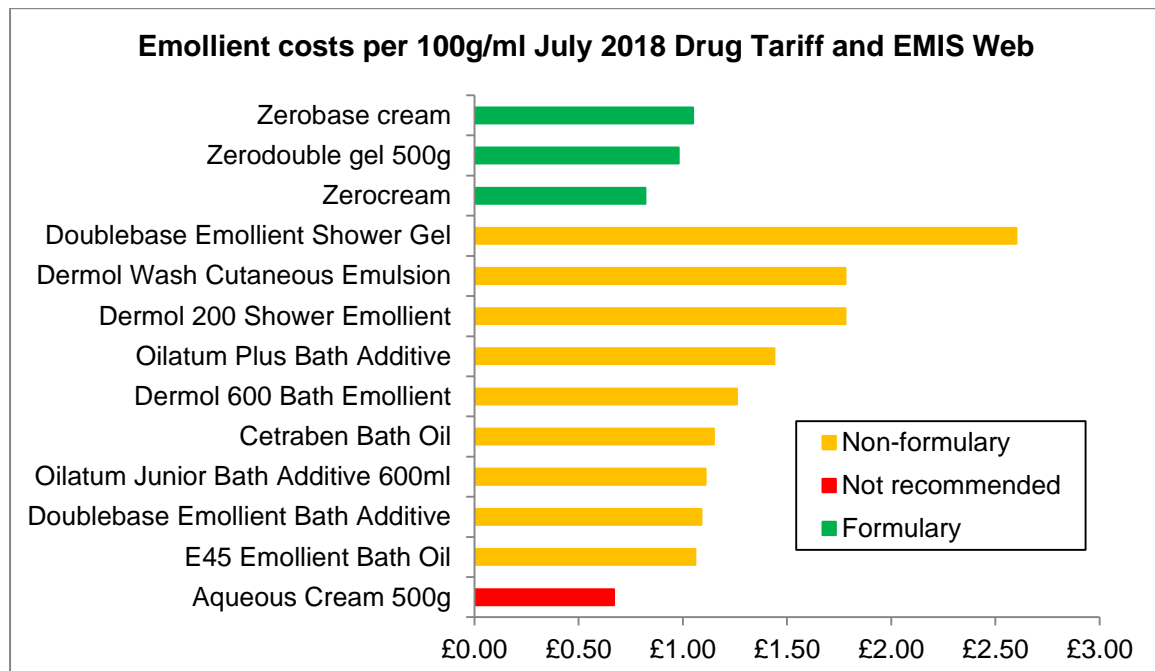
The MMT will support practices to stop vitamin B co/strong tablets and, where appropriate, initiate thiamine 50mg once daily to align practice with local/national guidance.

BATH/SHOWER EMOLLIENTS

There is no evidence to support the routine use of bath emollients. Use of these products may increase the risk of slips/falls.

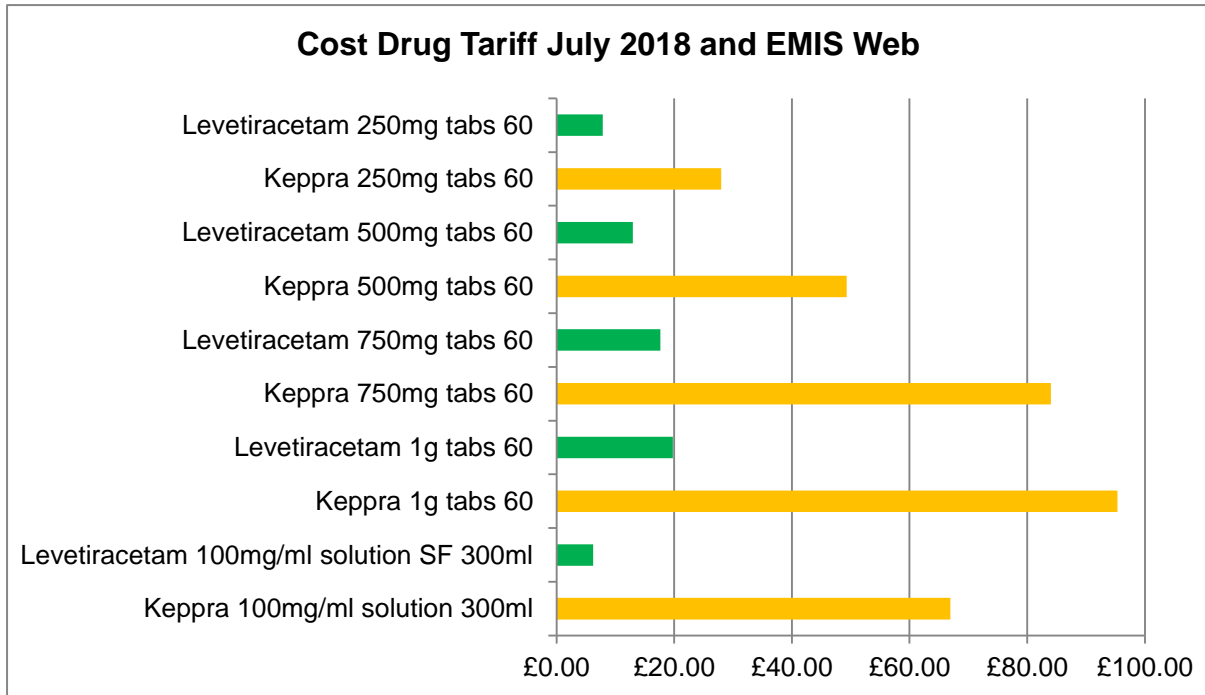
Advice for healthcare professionals

- Follow local [emollient prescribing guidelines](#): all formulary emollients can be used as soap substitutes.
- People should be advised to wash with their normal emollient as a soap substitute, which provides better moisturisation than bath/shower emollients.
- Aqueous cream is no longer recommended as a soap substitute / emollient due to association with irritation



KEPPRA – SWITCH TO LEVETIRACETAM

The Medicines Management Team (MMT) will support practices to switch Keppra products to levetiracetam in line with [MHRA advice](#) on switching between different manufacturers' products, where antiepileptic drugs are used for treatment of epilepsy.



APC NEWS

SHARED CARED PROTOCOL/PATHWAY UPDATE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ADHD IN ADULTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

The Shared Care paperwork has been updated and will now include adults, young people and children. The paperwork will be made available on the Medicines Management website:

[Shared Care Protocols & Proformas – Medicines Management](#)

ADULT GROWTH HORMONE (SOMATROPIN) SHARED CARE PROTOCOL

The Area Prescribing Committee has agreed to adopt the Sheffield SCP. This is now available on the medicines management website:

[SCP](#)

ACTIPATCH

ActiPatch is a new device worn next to the skin to help manage pain. The device has been categorised as Grey on the traffic light system and the recommendation is not to prescribe on FP10.