

The T@blet

News from the Medicines Management Team

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PRIORITY INFORMATION

CARBIMAZOLE

There has been a MHRA update regarding the side effect of carbimazole. There has been found to be an increased risk for congenital malformations and the warnings on using contraception in those of childbearing potential has been increased.

There is also a new warning risk of a risk of pancreatitis when using carbimazole. [Click here](#) to view the MHRA document for both warnings.

SGLT2 INHIBITORS: REPORTS ON FOURNIER'S GANGRENE

SGLT2 inhibitors authorised in the UK include Edistride (dapagliflozin), Forxiga (dapagliflozin), Ebymect (dapagliflozin/metformin), Xigduo (dapagliflozin/metformin), Qtern (dapagliflozin/ saxagliptin), Invokana (canagliflozin), Vokanamet (canagliflozin/metformin), Jardiance (empagliflozin), Synjardy ▼ (empagliflozin/metformin), Glyxambi ▼ (empagliflozin/linagliptin), Steglatro ▼ (ertugliflozin), Segluromet ▼ (ertugliflozin/metformin) and Steglujan ▼ (ertugliflozin/sitagliptin).

If Fournier's gangrene is suspected, stop the SGLT2 inhibitor and start treatment urgently (including antibiotics and surgical debridement). Fournier's gangrene is a rare but potentially life-threatening infection that requires urgent medical attention.

For general enquiries please email: donccg.medicinesmanagementadmin@nhs.net

For practice pharmacist queries please email: donccg.rxline@nhs.net

For Advice for healthcare professionals: [Click here](#)

Warnings about Fournier's gangrene will be added to the product information for all SGLT2 inhibitors. A letter has also been sent to advise healthcare professionals of the risk. Patients taking SGLT2 inhibitors should be advised to seek urgent medical attention if they experience severe pain, tenderness, erythema, or swelling in the genital or perineal area accompanied by fever or malaise.

SELF CARE LAUNCH

Following the consultation conclusion we are launching our Doncaster CCG wide campaign on the 28th March to reduce prescribing for minor and self-limiting conditions where OTC products are available and appropriate.

[Please click here](#) to view/download the resources which are:

- GP practice briefing pack
- Educational establishment briefing pack
- Care Facility Homely Remedies Guidance
- Emis Web and SystmOne files to generate patient leaflets when a self-care code is entered into the system.

The password for the page is OTCMarch19.

There will also be Optimise Rx prompts and a local (and starting in May - regional) social media campaign.

We hope you feel able to support this initiative. Taxpayers currently spend over £1.9 million on self-care drugs for Doncaster CCG annually and prescribers are prescribing these items to over 100000 patients. If we can make a big impact on this then resources can be released for further healthcare improvements in Doncaster, and patients themselves empowered.

INFORMATION

TEST STRIP CHOICE IN GESTATIONAL DIABETES

A review has been undertaken by the diabetes specialist team. They are recommending the TEE2 meter for gestational diabetes patients.

VITAMIN K REFERRAL PATHWAY

The process to arrange administration of Vitamin K has recently been changed. The referral to GP's has now been removed and when vitamin K needs to be administered the emergency care practitioners will be contacted directly. The pathway is available on [GP Find](#).

FREESTYLE LIBRE ALERT

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FreeStyle Libre flash glucose sensor – Use of barrier methods to reduce skin reactions to the sensor adhesive (MDA/2019/003). Issued 29 January 2019. Manufactured by Abbott – some users who are experiencing an immune response (including skin hypersensitivity reactions) to the adhesive are applying creams, patches, or sprays under their sensor to reduce skin reactions, which may affect device performance.

Actions given in the alert:

- Identify patients who have reported or may be experiencing skin reactions to their glucose sensor, which may include erythema, itching, and blistering
- Consider if continued use of this device for patients with skin reactions is suitable.
- Consider use of alternative glucose monitoring systems for these patients.

[Click here](#) to view the MHRA document.

BREXIT MEDICINES SUPPLY - LEGISLATION CHANGES

Legislation has been drafted to allow regulations to be made to modify the application of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMR2012) to deal with serious shortages of medicinal products in the event of a no deal Brexit. Patients will need to agree to any substitution and if not will be referred back to their GP practice by pharmacists.

In addition, and independent of a no deal Brexit, legislation is drafted to permit changes to the HMR2012 to enable Ministers to publish serious shortage protocols in relation to prescription only medicines, allowing pharmacists in retail pharmacies, for a specific medicine in shortage, to dispense a different quantity/dosage form or substitute a prescribed medicine with either a generic/therapeutic equivalent as prescribed in the protocol.

[Click here](#) to read a BMA document on this matter.

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