

South Staffordshire Area Prescribing Group (APG) Update

September 2015



A resource for South Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Members

Welcome

Dear all,

Welcome to a bumper newsletter which will aim to condense two meeting worth of information into the three sides.

The formulary working sub-group is making great progress in ensuring Netformulary is up to date and has useful information included. We are currently uploading those drugs which are commissioned by NHS-England so it is clear who's responsibility prescribing should be.

Finally, due to the increased number of freedom of information requests around rebate agreements, we have agreed to publish a list of all rebates the CCG's have signed up to individually.

As per usual, all this and more can be found on our formulary, link below:

www.southstaffordshirejointformulary.nhs.uk

Healthy Start Vitamins

The APG have been looking into supply of these vitamins and currently the only way for suitable patients to access these vitamins are through SSOTP premises for free. These should not be prescribed on FP10 prescriptions at the moment.

Repatriation of Specialised Commission drugs

The APG have been informed that trusts have now been contacted by NHS-England to begin the process to repatriate certain drugs over the coming months. So far:

- Burton Hospital have began repatriating Mycophenolate for the management of Rheumatoid diseases
- Heart of England Foundation Trust have began repatriating immunosuppressant's for Renal and Transplant patients
- Dudley Group of Hospitals have been asked to review the number of patients they are managing with post transplant drugs and associated immunosuppressant's

Please note that your local trust will write to you and your pharmaceutical advisors to inform you of the process and next steps.

NICE Update:-

APG discussed 6 Technology appraisals published by NICE since the last meeting. Many related to NHS-England and cancer services, but the following will be of interest to CCGs and GPs.

- TA340 – Ustekinumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis. This is similar cost to existing therapies and treating the same population. Not expected to have any significant impact on budgets.
- TA341 – Apixaban for treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism – this was expected and in line with others in class.
- TA342 – Vedolizumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis – The NHS list price for Vedolizumab is higher than existing therapies, therefore if used is likely to increase costs, however, it is unclear how much the patient access scheme will impact costs by.

All NICE approved drugs will be added to the NetFormulary in accordance with statutory obligations.

Water for Injection

GP's are reminded to prescribe Water for Injection to be used as the diluent for the end-of-life drugs such as Diamorphine.

There have been reports of District Nurses attending patients homes as these drugs need to be initiated only to find that there is no diluent available.

New Guidelines

We have been beavering away the last couple of months and have produced the following guidelines (links enclosed):

- **Topical Steroid Ladder [\[LINK\]](#)**
Visual ladder indicating potency of various topical steroids
- **Asthma guidelines for over 12years & Adults 2015 update [\[LINK\]](#)**
Full revision of prescribing guidelines and formulary products. There has been a major review of all inhaler products and also includes a handy visual aide in the appendices
- **COPD 2015 update [\[LINK\]](#)**
Full revision of prescribing guidelines and formulary products. Move away from treating patients in linear fashion, with aim to reduce inhaled steroid usage. There has been a major review of all inhaler products and also includes a handy visual aide in the appendices
- **Vitamin D prescribing guidelines [\[LINK\]](#)**
Diagnosis and prescribing guidelines. This guideline also highlights products which are licensed and on-formulary to prescribe locally.
- **Risk assessment for appropriate use of safety devices [\[LINK\]](#)**
Produced by the Diabetes Clinical Network to provide information on when it is suitable to prescribe/ use

Insulin Glargine Biosimilar

In the last month a biosimilar for insulin Glargine has been released. To prevent confusion and incorrect supply, it is recommended that all prescriptions for insulin Glargine are prescribed by the brand or product intended. The pharmaceutical advisors have been asked to ensure ScriptSwitch recommends prescribing by brand only.

Safety Matters

May to June 2015 Drug Safety Update highlighted several issues which are relevant in primary care:

- **SGLT-2 inhibitors** (canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin) - Risk of diabetic ketoacidosis
Test for raised ketones in patients with acidosis symptoms, even if plasma glucose levels are near-normal. Further information can be found on the following: [\[Click Here\]](#)
- **High-dose Ibuprofen** ($\geq 2400\text{mg/day}$) increase in cardiovascular risk similar to COX-2 inhibitors and diclofenac. Further information can be found at: [\[Click Here\]](#)
- **Xalatan eye drops** have had reformulation, this has led to an increase in reports of eye irritation. This may be due to the lower pH of the current formulation. Further information can be found at: [\[Click Here\]](#)
- **Denosumab** and intravenous bisphosphonates: patient reminder cards have been produced informing patients of the risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw and precautions to take before and during treatment. Information at [\[Click Here\]](#)

Yellow Card Scheme—new smartphone app

A new smartphone app for reporting side effects to the Yellow Card Scheme has been launched in July.

The app enables you to create a watch list of medicines of interest that you can track for regular news and alerts, even if you do not have a side effect to report at the time. You can also review Yellow Card records for medicines and vaccines, as well as send your own reports on the move—with an immediate notification that your information has been received.

Download the app via iTunes Yellow Card for Apple devices or via PlayStore Yellow Card for Android devices.

ScriptSwitch Feedback Button

Practices are reminded that ScriptSwitch has a feedback feature where you can report back comments directly on a particular pop-up.

The button is available every time a switch appears, you should see a button with the word feedback inside it.



If you click this you can type your comment/recommendation and will be reviewed by the Medicines Optimisation teams. **Please ensure patient identifiable data is NOT added.**

APG Membership

Mark Seaton

Mahesh Mistry (SES & SP CCG) [Chair]

Samantha Buckingham (S&S CCG)

Sharuna Reddy (CCCCG)

Susan Bamford (ESCCG)

Dr M Stone (S&S CCG)

Dr C Pilkington (SES & SP CCG)

Dr J Crosse (ES CCG)

Dr A Onabolu (CCCCG)

Cathy Riley (SSSHFT)

Erika Young (SSSHFT)

Tracey Hall/Teresa Froggatt/Paul Fieldhouse (SSOTP)

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