

BLMK Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Newsletter March 2022, Number 03

Summary of Key Recommendations – 2nd March APC meeting

(For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see separate Formulary Newsletter)



The following organisations contribute to and participate in the BLMK APC – Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group; Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust; Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust; East London NHS Foundation Trust; Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome to the March 2022 BLMK Area Prescribing Committee (APC) newsletter

As a result of the CCG merger, the previous Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) and Milton Keynes Prescribing Advisory Committee (MKPAG) have been replaced with a BLMK wide Area Prescribing Committee (BLMK APC). The contents of this newsletter reflect the output from the third (2nd March 2022) APC meeting.

BLMK Medicines Management Team Website Update :-

Following the CCG merger, from Sept 2021, all approved BLMK APC documents will be uploaded to this website. All current approved JPC/MKPAG documents will also remain on the website as before.

Medicines Optimisation Team website:- <https://medicines.blmkccg.nhs.uk/>

Searching the website:

All documents referred to within the Newsletter (where appropriate) will be available shortly on the website.

The website has an easy to use search function which should make it easy to find the information you are looking for. If you have trouble searching the website or if you have any comments / suggestions, please do let us know - contact either Samantha.scholes@nhs.net (Website Manager) or Sandra.McGroarty@nhs.net (Website Pharmacist Clinical Lead)

TREATMENT / PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

Lipid management for Primary and Secondary prevention of CVD

To support the delivery of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) Lipid Management Rapid Uptake Product (RUP) Working Group has developed a NICE-endorsed [clinical pathway](#) for the management of lipids in primary and secondary prevention of CVD. The pathway has been updated by the AAC to include Inclisiran ▼ (Leqvio®) following the release of its positive NICE TA for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia. The committee agreed to ratify the pathway. Work on the local implementation of the pathway is ongoing.

UPDATED
NATIONAL
GUIDANCE

Dry Eye guidance (BLMK) – Update and alignment

A review of Bedfordshire & Luton, and Milton Keynes Dry Eye guidelines has been undertaken to produce a BLMK Guideline, and align both joint Formularies. The guidelines were ratified by the APC and can be accessed [here](#). Where differences existed consultation was undertaken with local specialists to agree the product/formulary changes. Further details about contact lens suitability and preservatives has been included in the aid section. Single use ampoules have been removed where possible/alternative products exist – this is to support the sustainability agenda and reduce packaging and plastic waste

NEW
BLMK
GUIDELINES

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

BLMK Treatment Pathway for Rheumatoid Arthritis Update

The Rheumatoid Arthritis treatment pathways have been reviewed and updated. The treatment pathway has been redesigned, with a change from the previous algorithm A (incorporating treatment for moderate and severe disease for the majority of patients) and algorithm B (for use for patients with severe disease who are not suitable for treatment with TNF inhibitors), to a treatment pathway for [moderate disease](#) and a separate pathway for [severe disease](#) (the latter incorporating elements of algorithm A and B).

The severe disease pathway was also updated to include a fifth line treatment option – this will allow patients to trial treatment with the 5 different classes of NICE approved treatments currently available. The updated pathways were approved by the APC.

PATHWAYS
UPDATED

BLMK Treatment Pathway for Psoriatic Arthritis Update

The treatment Pathway for Active Psoriatic Arthritis (after inadequate response to DMARDs) has been updated to include Upadacitinib, as per NICE TA 768, and fourth line treatment options. The inclusion of a fourth line of therapy will allow patients to trial treatment with the 4 different classes of NICE approved treatments currently available. The updated pathway was approved by the APC.

PATHWAY
UPDATED

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES

The following Transgender shared care guidelines, written by the Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) were approved by the APC:

[Shared Care Protocol Trans Masculine](#)
[Shared Care Protocol Trans Feminine](#)

A link to the GIC website is available via the BLMK Medicine Management website or it can be accessed directly at ([Tavistock & Portman NHSFT](#)) (Updated January 2022)

It was noted that the guidelines were for use in adults only. Shared care for children and adolescents is not supported within BLMK.

UPDATED

FORMULARY - IMPORTANT

See separate Formulary Newsletter to access the Medicines and Wound Care Formularies Updates – click [here](#) to access the newsletter

NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED

The following NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (CCG Commissioned) have been published during the period 18th November 2021 until 16th February 2022 inclusive:

Cenobamate for treating focal onset seizures in epilepsy, Technology appraisal guidance [TA753] Published: 15 December 2021. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta753>

Solriamfetol for treating excessive daytime sleepiness caused by narcolepsy, Technology appraisal guidance [TA758] Published: 05 January 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta758>

Fostamatinib for treating refractory chronic immune thrombocytopenia, Technology appraisal guidance [TA759] Published: 07 January 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta759>

Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate for treating hyperkalaemia, Technology appraisal guidance [TA599] Published: 04 September 2019 Last updated: 24 January 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta599>

Fremanezumab for preventing migraine, Technology appraisal guidance [TA764] Published: 02 February 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta764>

Upadacitinib for treating active psoriatic arthritis after inadequate response to DMARDs, Technology appraisal guidance [TA768] Published: 02 February 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta768>

Palforzia for treating peanut allergy in children and young people, Technology appraisal guidance [TA769] Published: 02 February 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta769>

[Click here](#) to access **all** technology appraisal guidelines - CCG and NHSE Commissioned (18th November 2021 -16th February 2022 inclusive)

NICE Guidelines:

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since December 2021 - [click here](#) to access these guidelines.

NICE COVID-19 Rapid Reviews/Information

The Committee noted that NICE have continued to issue/update a series of covid 19 rapid reviews/information: this information can be accessed from the NICE website [click here](#)

MEDICINES SAFETY DRUG UPDATES (DSU) AND PATIENT SAFETY ALERTS

The APC received a Primary Care Medicines Safety Update and an update from the BLMK ICS Medicines Safety Group (MSG).

The Primary Care Medicines Safety Update focussed on the primary care response to the MHRA Drug Safety Updates ([December 2021](#), [January 2022](#) and [February 2022](#)). In particular:

Haloperidol (Haldol): reminder of risks when used in elderly patients for the acute treatment of delirium (December 2021)

Actions taken: Communication via BLMK CCG Care Home Newsletter which goes to all practices the local authorities and CQC registered care homes within BLMK and circulated in the quarterly medicines safety update in the BLMK primary care newsletter uploaded to Teamnet.

Dapagliflozin (Forxiga): no longer authorised for treatment of type 1 diabetes mellitus (December 2021)
Actions taken: As per BLMK APC meeting notes – 1st December 2021. DSU featured on both Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes medicines formularies.

Brolucizumab (Beovu ▼): risk of intraocular inflammation and retinal vascular occlusion increased with short dosing intervals (January 2022)

Actions taken: Confirmation that DSU noted at local Acute Trust medicines committees, consultation commenced with ophthalmologists at MKUH and BHFT with regards to dosing intervals and adjustments to proforma to include DSU.

COVID-19 antivirals: reporting to the UK COVID-19 Antivirals Pregnancy Registry (February 2022)

Actions taken: DSU circulated to the BLMK CMDU clinical triage team on 23rd February 2022, noted that the current CMDU clinical policy choice of drug for pregnant women or women likely to be pregnant is IV sotrovimab. Oral antivirals have not been issued to any pregnant patients by the CMDU.

Hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine: increased risk of cardiovascular events when used with macrolide antibiotics; reminder of psychiatric reactions (February 2022)

Actions taken: The CCG will update the relevant DMARD shared care guidance and COPD guideline to include the DSU. Working is being undertaken with the locality team reviewing practice data to identify any patients on this combination and putting a warning on the practice prescribing systems. Confirmation of circulation to clinical teams sought via provider MSOs and formulary pharmacists.

The BLMK ICS Medicines safety group (MSG) was held on Tuesday 8th February 2022. The key areas of focus were:

Medicines Safety Improvement Programme (MedSIP)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/patient-safety-improvement-programmes/#MedSIP>

The Medicines Safety Improvement Programme (MedSIP) addresses the most important causes of severe harm associated with medicines, most of which have been known about for years but continue to challenge the health and care systems in England.

The key ambitions for MedSIP are as follows:

- to reduce medicine administration errors in care homes by 50% by March 2024
- to reduce harm from opioid medicines by reducing high dose prescribing (>120mg oral Morphine equivalent), for non-cancer pain by 50%, by March 2024
- to reduce harm by reducing the prescription and supply of oral methotrexate 10mg by 50%, by October 2021

Fire risk from use of emollient creams

There have been a few local and national incidents highlighted by the Fire Service in relation to the use of emollient creams within the community setting – domiciliary care and care homes. Follow up workshop held with CCG safeguarding, CCG medicines optimisation and the fire service from Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Consultation with providers within the ICS with regards to information given out to patients in relation to emollients, information to raise awareness has been circulated to care homes. This has moved to the MSG action plan as this is a system wide project. Next steps: to agree 'at risk' groups including those currently prescribed home oxygen. <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/emollients-and-risk-of-severe-and-fatal-burns-new-resources-available>

BLMK MSG project plan – review and prioritisation of Sodium Valproate and pregnancy prevention programme

Audit to be conducted initially (phase 1) with inpatient data on risk acknowledgement form adherence, primary care data to be reviewed (via CCG locality team) for reconciliation (phase 2) and phase 3 to compare current systems in place to improve compliance, phase 4: to raise awareness and promote quality improvement outcomes.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE UPDATE

There was no update presented to the APC as there have been no meetings since the last APC meeting in December.

ADDITIONAL PAPERS/ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

New treatments for COVID-19 (non-hospitalised patients)

An information paper on new treatments for Covid 19 came to the APC for noting and included information on:

- Updates to the national Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy since the last meeting.
- The latest version of the policy for non-hospitalised patients, version 5, published 24th February 2022 may be accessed [here](#).

Commissioning recommendations for national procurement for DOACs January 2022, Version 1

The committee noted the [commissioning recommendations](#) for information.

Perinatal Mental Health Prescribing Document

The document was put together by two GPs who are perinatal mental health (MH) spotlight champions. The resource is to support GPs with managing medications for women who have MH issues when they are pregnant or breastfeeding. It was approved by the BLMK Prescribing Committee in February 2022. The paper came to APC for information onl and is now available on the Medicine management website – [click here](#)

BLMK APC MEETING DATES – 2022

Wednesday 4th May 2022
Wednesday 29th June 2022
Wednesday 28th September 2022
Wednesday 7th December 2022

OTHER NEWS

Use of Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx

To further enhance the communication of BLMK APC advice to GPs, the BLMK CCG medicine management team **are actively reviewing the messages on NetFormulary, Scriptswitch and Optimise Rx** to highlight when BLMK APC guidance is available and including a hyperlink to the BLMK Medicines Management website. Please advise us if you notice any issues.

Contact Us:-  anne.graeff@nhs.net and sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net