

## Medicines Formulary Assessments

### Hormone Replacement Therapy Section Review:

**Estradiol 10microgram vaginal tablets**—Vagirux® has been added to the Formularies to replace Vagifem® as a cost-effective and more environmentally friendly product. Vagirux has a re-useable applicator which reduces plastic waste. Please prescribe as Vagirux (by brand name, not generically).

**Bijuve® oral capsules**—Estradiol 1mg / micronised progesterone indicated for continuous combined HRT in women with an intact uterus and at least 12 months since last menses. GREEN - Reserved for patients who are non-compliant with progesterone component when estradiol and micronized progesterone have previously been prescribed separately.

Femoston tablets, Elleste Duet Conti, Femoston Conti, Evorel Conti patches, Elleste Solo, Femseven patches and Ovestin cream were all added to the Formularies (GREEN)

Tridestra tablets and Premarin tablets have been removed from the Formularies.

### Two new products available on the Formularies for Vulvar and Vaginal Atrophy:

**Prasterone pessaries (Intrarosa®)**—Added as AMBER/AMBER1, last line therapy for symptoms that adversely affect quality of life AND at least two other topical oestrogen preparations have failed / where topical oestrogens are not suitable for the patient. Prasterone is a Schedule 4 part 2 anabolic steroid. A risk benefit should be conducted every 6 months. See Formulary for full details.

**Ospemifene 60mg tablets (Sensio®)** - A new selective oestrogen receptor modulator (SERM) with similar efficacy to locally applied vaginal products. AMBER/AMBER1 - restricted to those unwilling or unable to apply local vaginal products or as a last line therapy where all other options have failed.

### Methocarbamol for short term relief of muscle spasm:

Methocarbamol is a drug of limited clinical value and is listed as a product less suitable for prescribing in the BNF. Following a formal review of evidence and place in use, methocarbamol has been designated Non-Formulary in BLMK and is not recommended for prescribing.

**Ranibizumab biosimilar Ongavia® for a variety of eye conditions:** National recommendation to adopt the biosimilar as a cost-effective product. NHSE has published commissioning recommendations for the treatment of retinal vascular conditions. Addition to the Formularies (RED) with a phased introduction of the product in secondary care. Originator brand (Lucentis®) remains on the Formularies as the biosimilar is introduced.

**Dymista® nasal spray for the relief of symptoms of moderate to severe seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis:** Designation changed from AMBER/AMBER 2 to GREEN, for use where monotherapy with either intranasal antihistamine or glucocorticoid is not considered sufficient.

**Glucagon pre-filled pen (Ogluo®) for severe hypoglycaemia:** Assessed and not recommended for prescribing in BLMK (less clinically effective product vs Glucagen Hypokit®).

### Minor Updates

-Cacit® effervescent tablets added to MK Formulary for metabolic bone disease of prematurity in neonates to align with Beds/Luton.

-Freestyle Libre sensors will be discontinued by December 2022. A reminder to switch remaining patients to Libre 2.

-Denosumab Shared Care Guideline has been published and is [available to view](#)

-Addition of sharps bin monograph, including links for appropriate disposal and recommendations on when a sharps bin should be given

-A reminder to confirm viable pregnancy via scan prior to initiation of progesterone pessaries for threatened miscarriage. Product remains RED on the Formularies, for secondary care use only

Discontinued products: Anthelios XL suncream, Sunsense Ultra 50+, Eucerin intensive 10%, Isotrex, Isotrexin, Anapen

### Is there a medicine you would like added to the Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes Joint Formulary?

Email us via [blmkicb.medsopt@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.medsopt@nhs.net) to discuss how

