

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Area Prescribing Committee (BLMK APC) Newsletter Number 05, July 2022

Welcome to the July 2022 BLMK Area Prescribing Committee newsletter.
The contents of this newsletter contains a summary of the key
recommendations and reflects the output from the fifth BLMK APC, held on
29th June 2022.

For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see
separate [June 2022 Formulary Newsletter](#)

Click [here](#) to access the Bedfordshire & Luton Joint Formulary
Click [here](#) to access the Milton Keynes Joint Formulary

BLMK Medicines Optimisation Team Website Update

Following the transition of BLMK Clinical Commissioning Group to NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (ICB) on 1st July 2022, the web address for the Medicines Management website has been updated.

All approved BLMK APC documents will be uploaded to the website and all current approved JPC/MKPAG* documents will also remain on the website as before.

NEW Medicines Optimisation Team website:

<https://medicines.bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.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)

*Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) / Milton Keynes Prescribing Advisory Group (MKPAG)

The following organisations contribute to and participate in the BLMK APC – Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board; 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

TREATMENT / PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

Place in therapy of Drugs for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes

In February 2022, NICE updated NG28 Type 2 diabetes in adults: management. NICE reviewed the evidence and made new recommendations on drug treatment for adults with type 2 diabetes. As part of the NG28 update, NICE has produced a number of resources for prescribers including three visual summaries:

NICE
Guidance
Summaries

[Full version: choosing medicines for first-line and further treatment](#)

[Short version: choosing medicines for first-line treatment](#)

[Short version: choosing medicines for further treatment](#)

Prescribers are encouraged to use the visual summaries to support prescribing choices, alongside the Milton Keynes Joint Formulary and the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Formulary, selecting local Formulary choices from the NICE list of suitable medicines. For SGLT2 inhibitors (SGLT2i), prescribers should prioritise patients where the greatest benefit is anticipated for review. These are patients for whom NICE recommended SGLT2i should be *offered*, i.e. patients with chronic heart failure or established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

Osteoporosis Guidelines Update

UPDATED

This [guideline](#) has been updated to incorporate the recently published NICE recommended treatment option, Romosozumab (NICE [TA791](#)). Romosozumab is for secondary care / specialist prescribing only. Any patients commenced on Romosozumab must have existing treatment with bisphosphonates discontinued.

ALL patients on osteoporosis treatments must be prescribed calcium & vitamin D unless the clinician is satisfied that they have adequate dietary calcium intake. Vitamin D should be prescribed for all patients.

Potassium Binders Treatment Pathway

NEW
Treatment
Pathway

The Hertfordshire and West Essex treatment pathway for the use of potassium binders (Patiromer and Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate) for patients with stages 3b to 5 chronic kidney disease or heart failure, in accordance with NICE guidance and under the care of East & North Hertfordshire Trust, was approved for use in BLMK.

Buccal Midazolam Prescribing Guidance

UPDATED
and extended
across BLMK
ICS

Following a review of the formulary options available for buccal midazolam, the prescribing guidance has been updated and extended for use across BLMK. Click [here](#) to access the guidance.

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

Interim commissioning statement: High cost drugs for young people under the care of adult services

COMMISSIONING
STATEMENT

To standardise process and respond to the needs within the local ICS for funding of high cost drugs (HCDs) for clinical indications which would generally be funded by NHS England for children and young people (CYP), and then transfer to CCG routine commissioning for adults, an interim commissioning statement has been agreed. The criteria allow for the routine commissioning of treatments for patients who are 16 or 17 years old and under the care of adult services, and who meet the criteria for commissioning for children treated within specialist paediatric services.

Blueteq forms will be made available to allow clinical teams to request funding for this patient cohort.

Moderate to Severe Ulcerative Colitis treatment pathway

The treatment Pathway for moderate to severe Ulcerative Colitis (after inadequate response to conventional therapies) has been updated to include Filgotinib, as per TA792, and third and fourth line treatment options. The inclusion of third and fourth lines of therapy will allow patients to trial treatment within the different classes of NICE approved treatments currently available.

The updated pathway is being finalised, and will apply, across BLMK ICS.

UPDATED
and extended
across BLMK
ICS

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES

The following shared care guidelines have been finalised and uploaded to the Medicines Optimisation website:

- [Cinacalcet](#) for the management of PRIMARY hyperparathyroidism in patients with severe hypercalcaemia awaiting surgery or deemed unfit for surgical management
- Denosumab (Prolia®) for the treatment of Osteoporosis in Post-Menopausal Women and Adult Males (≥ 50 years) at increased risk of fractures (available on the website soon)

NEW SHARED
CARE
GUIDELINES

FORMULARY CHANGES

The Formulary status of Bempedoic Acid and Bempedoic Acid/Ezetimibe was agreed to be changed from AMBER/AMBER1 to GREEN. This is for use in accordance with, and to support the implementation of, NICE TA694 only. NB: TA694 recommends use of bempedoic acid in combination with ezetimibe; bempedoic acid is **not** recommended for use alone (i.e. without co-prescription of ezetimibe) or in combination with statins.

Tramadol MR tablets were agreed to be added to both joint Formularies (GREEN traffic light).

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 21st April 2022 until 15th June 2022 inclusive:

Romosozumab for treating severe osteoporosis Technology appraisal guidance [TA791] Published: 25 May 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta791>

Filgotinib for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis Technology appraisal guidance [TA792] Published: 01 June 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta792>

[Click here](#) to access **all** technology appraisal guidelines - CCG and NHSE Commissioned (21st April 2022 until 15th June 2022 inclusive)

NICE Guidelines:

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since April 2022 - [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).

This update focussed on the primary care response to the MHRA Drug Safety Updates ([May](#) and [June](#) 2022). In particular:

Denosumab 60mg (Prolia): should not be used in patients under 18 years due to the risk of serious hypercalcaemia (May 2022)

Action(s) taken: DSU included in BLMK primary care newsletter to inform primary care to refer in patients to their specialist if they encounter any patients under 18 prescribed Denosumab 60mg (Prolia) as it should not be used in children and adolescents younger than 18 years. Clinicians encouraged to report any suspected adverse drug reactions associated with denosumab or other medicines on a Yellow Card.

Metformin and reduced vitamin B12 levels: new advice for monitoring patients at risk (June 2022)

Action(s) taken: DSU to be disseminated to primary care commissioning for information and diagnostics and to be circulated via BLMK primary care newsletter to raise awareness. To be discussed at next MSG r.e dissemination to relevant clinical teams.

Roche Accu-Chek Insight insulin pump with NovoRapid PumpCart insulin cartridges: alert following cases of insulin leakage (June 2022)

Action(s) taken: DSU to be included in the primary care newsletter and flagged to relevant CCG/ICB key stakeholders. To confirm at next MSG that trust clinical teams and integrated clinical teams have been notified. For review at the next MSG.

The BLMK ICS Medicines safety group (MSG) was held on Tuesday 17th May 2022. The key areas of focus were:

Potassium permanganate (topical) - inadvertent oral administration

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-patient-safety-alert-inadvertent-oral-administration-of-potassium-permanganate/> for action by October 2022 has been reviewed at the most recent BLMK formulary subgroup. Potassium permanganate is to remain on Formulary with optimisation of safety messaging on all platforms (Formulary/Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx /Newsletters) to highlight the risk of inadvertent ingestion and terminology used in the NPSA alert.

Midazolam prescribing for paediatric patients in primary care has been reviewed in terms of formulary alignment, by the BLMK formulary subgroup. The Epistatus multi dose bottle (unlicensed) has been added to both the Bedfordshire & Luton and Milton Keynes Formularies (**AMBER /AMBER1**) for use where non-standard dosing is required. Separate entry added to the Milton Keynes Formulary to reflect **RED** uses (pre-op and emergency trays). All Epistatus pre-filled syringe strengths moved to Non-Formulary, existing patients only – Buccolam to be used as first line product (licensed). The buccal midazolam prescribing guidance has been updated and next steps are to work with community providers and primary care on communication particularly on updating the information that flags to GPs when they select buccal midazolam on their prescribing system.

Sodium valproate project update – MSG are compiling a list of specialist team contact details to support clinicians to signpost patients whom require an annual review to be assessed in line with the pregnancy prevention programme, to the appropriate service given the clinical indication. BLMK MSG newsletter to do a theme on drugs in pregnancy with main feature Sodium valproate pregnancy prevention programme. The recent MHRA updates on metformin and pregabalin and reminder of sodium valproate will be included within this prospective BLMK medicines safety newsletter.

Group membership:

The MSG are looking to open expressions of interest for more members to be opted into the group, specifically primary care network representation and also consideration of community pharmacy involvement (to be discussed at a future meeting). The group will have health and justice representation from July onwards. If you are interested in joining the BLMK Medicines Safety group as a PCN representative, please contact: taiya.large1@nhs.net.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE UPDATE

The following information was brought to the committee for noting:

- BLMK AMR / HCAI steering group met in June 2022
- Regional antimicrobial prescribing data indicates (for East of England):
 - Low total antibiotic prescribing in secondary care but higher than average use of IV and broad spectrum (watch and reserve) antibiotics.
 - Primary care prescribing reflects national trends.

EAST OF ENGLAND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (EoEPAC)

The APC ratified the EoEPAC bulletin and the following recommendations relating to the [Qoro neuromuscular training device](#):

Not recommended for Stroke related dysphagia, Hiatus Hernia or any other indication.

ADDITIONAL PAPERS/ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

New treatments for COVID-19

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

- The latest version of the [policy](#) for non-hospitalised patients, version 6, published 30th May 2022.
- The latest version of the [policy](#) for the treatment of hospital-onset COVID-19, version 7, published 30th May 2022.
- Policy for the use of [Baricitinib](#) for patients hospitalised due to COVID-19, published 5th May 2022.

NB: information on the updated 'highest risk' cohorts may be accessed [here](#).

BLMK APC MEETING DATES – 2022/2023

Wednesday 28th September 2022
Wednesday 7th December 2022
Wednesday 1st March 2023
Wednesday 3rd May 2023
Wednesday 5th July 2023
Wednesday 27th September 2023
Wednesday 6th December 2023

OTHER NEWS

Use of Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx

To further enhance the communication of BLMK APC advice to GPs, the BLMK ICB medicines 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