

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Area Prescribing Committee (BLMK APC)

Newsletter Number 06, October 2022

Welcome to the October 2022 BLMK Area Prescribing Committee newsletter. This newsletter contains a summary of the key recommendations and reflects the output from the sixth BLMK APC, held on 28th September 2022.

For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see separate [September 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.golton@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

Dapagliflozin for chronic kidney disease

Supporting information for clinicians regarding referral, dosing and monitoring of patients eligible to receive treatment with dapagliflozin for chronic kidney disease can be accessed [here](#).

NEW
GUIDANCE

COPD Guidelines Update

The existing separate Bedfordshire/Luton and Milton Keynes COPD guidelines have been reviewed and harmonised to create a [BLMK wide guideline](#). The updated guideline includes information on inhaler choices, services for COPD patients, referral pathways across the region e.g., current pulmonary rehabilitation pathways, and an inhaler decision aid.

UPDATED
and extended
across
BLMK ICS

BLMK Infant Formulae Prescribing Guidelines

The existing guidance on the prescribing of infant formulae have been reviewed, updated and aligned across BLMK. Recommendations on product choice have been updated, alongside quantities to be prescribed. The guidelines will be available shortly on the website.

UPDATED
and extended
across
BLMK ICS

BLMK Guidelines - Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS)

The [prescribing guidelines](#) for Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) have been reviewed, updated and aligned across BLMK. The recommendations are in accordance with NICE guidelines on treatment of malnutrition and with ACBS prescribing criteria. The most appropriate and cost-effective products have been recommended, retaining the previous 'traffic light' style layout.

UPDATED
and extended
across
BLMK ICS

Guidance on the recording of Hospital Only medicines

[Supporting information](#) for GP practices has been compiled to provide guidance on recording hospital / other medicines without prescribing on SystemOne.

GUIDANCE
FOR GP
PRACTICES

Hyperhidrosis Policy update

The hyperhidrosis policy has been updated to remove the requirement for patients to trial iontophoresis before referral to secondary care for consideration of additional treatment options e.g. botulinum toxin. Additionally, the clinical criteria for secondary care treatment response has been adapted from percentage sweat reduction to HDSS score improvement. The interim commissioning statement on the use of iontophoresis has been retired.

UPDATED

Icosapent Ethyl for reducing cardiovascular risk

NICE produced guidance on the use of Icosapent Ethyl ([TA805](#)) in July 2022, for reducing the risk of cardiovascular events in people with raised triglycerides. The committee agreed to assign it **GREEN** formulary status and approved the accompanying prescribing guidance. The [prescribing guidance flow chart](#) has been produced to aid clinicians who are considering prescribing icosapent ethyl.

NEW
GUIDANCE

Anticoagulation for non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation (NVAf)

The APC ratified, with local clarification regarding prescribing for patients at risk of GI bleeding, the nationally produced [anticoagulation prescribing guidance](#) for local use:

NEW
GUIDANCE

UKCPA/PCPAP/PCCS - Anticoagulation for non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf) following NHSE DOAC commissioning recommendations

Additional guidelines updated / uploaded to the website

[BLMK Asthma Guidelines](#) for Adults in Primary Care

WEBSITE
UPDATES

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

BLMK Intravitreal Injection Pathway

UPDATED

The existing BLMK treatment pathway for intravitreal injections has been updated to encompass newly published NICE guidance on the use of Faricimab (NICE TAs [799](#) and [800](#)), Brolucizumab (NICE [TA820](#)), and Dexamethasone implant (NICE [TA824](#)). The additional information contained within table 1 of the pathway document has also been updated and reformatted.

BLMK Ankylosing Spondylitis / Non-radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis (nrAxial SpA) pathway

UPDATED

The [BLMK treatment pathway](#) for Ankylosing Spondylitis / nrAxial SpA has been updated following the publication of new NICE guidance: Upadacitinib for treating active ankylosing spondylitis, NICE [TA829](#).

BLMK Psoriatic Arthritis pathway

UPDATED

The [BLMK treatment pathway](#) for Psoriatic Arthritis has been updated following the publication of new NICE guidance on the use of Guselkumab ([TA815](#) – this is an update to previous NICE guidance, published in June 2021) and Risankizumab ([TA803](#)).

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES

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

NEW / UPDATED
SHARED CARE
GUIDELINES

- [Denosumab \(Prolia®\)](#) for the treatment of Osteoporosis in Post-Menopausal Women and Adult Males (≥ 50 years) at increased risk of fractures.
- [Cinacalcet for the management of PRIMARY hyperparathyroidism](#) in patients with severe hypercalcaemia awaiting surgery or deemed unfit for surgical management.
- Shared Care Guideline for the Use of Methylphenidate, Dexamfetamine, Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate & Atomoxetine for the Management of [Attention-deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\) in Adult Patients](#) (age 18-64 years) (Applicable for Luton and Bedfordshire Areas only).

NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED

The following NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (ICB Commissioned) have been published during the period 16 June 2022 until 14 September 2022 inclusive:

Faricimab for treating diabetic macular oedema Technology appraisal guidance [TA799] Published: 29 June 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta799> (NB: added to formularies with RED traffic light status).

Faricimab for treating wet age-related macular degeneration Technology appraisal guidance [TA800] Published: 29 June 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta800> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Roxadustat for treating symptomatic anaemia in chronic kidney disease Technology appraisal guidance [TA807] Published: 13 July 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta807> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Icosapent ethyl with statin therapy for reducing the risk of cardiovascular events in people with raised triglycerides Technology appraisal guidance [TA805] Published: 13 July 2022

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta805> (NB: added to formularies with **GREEN** traffic light status).

Risankizumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis after inadequate response to DMARDs Technology appraisal guidance [TA803] Published: 13 July 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta803> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Abrocitinib, tralokinumab or upadacitinib for treating moderate to severe atopic dermatitis Technology appraisal guidance [TA814] Published: 03 August 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta814> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Guselkumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis after inadequate response to DMARDs Technology appraisal guidance [TA815] Published: 10 August 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta815> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Brolucizumab for treating diabetic macular oedema Technology appraisal guidance [TA820] Published: 31 August 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta820> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Dexamethasone intravitreal implant for treating diabetic macular oedema Technology appraisal guidance [TA824] Published: 14 September 2022 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta824> (NB: added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

[Click here](#) to access **all** technology appraisal guidelines - ICB and NHSE Commissioned (16th June 2022 until 14th September 2022 inclusive)

NICE Guidelines:

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since June 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 ([July](#) and [August](#) 2022). In particular:

Topiramate (Topamax): start of safety review triggered by a study reporting an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disabilities in children with prenatal exposure (July 2022)

Action(s) taken: DSU included in BLMK primary care newsletter, DSU also linked to the Formulary to raise awareness. To be discussed at next MSG re dissemination to relevant clinical teams. The DSU has also been included in the latest issue of [BLMK wide Medication Safety Newsletter](#) as part of a 'pregnancy special' issue in September.

Nebulised asthma rescue therapy in children: home use of nebulisers in paediatric asthma should be initiated and managed only by specialists (August 2022)

Action(s) taken: DSU included in BLMK primary care newsletter, DSU also linked to the Formulary to raise awareness. Planned to be discussed at BLMK Medication safety Group for onward dissemination to respiratory teams. The DSU will also be shared with the respiratory long term conditions group and has been included in the [paediatric asthma guideline](#).

Medicines Safety Group (MSG) 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 has had 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.

ADDITIONAL PAPERS/ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

Risk sharing / FOC policy update

This policy had previously been approved by both of the legacy APCs (the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee and Milton Keynes Prescribing Advisory Group). The current version has gone through the BLMK ICB ratification process, and is available to view on the [ICB website](#). The APC noted the publication of the ICB policy.

BLMK APC MEETING DATES – 2022/2023

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