

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Area Prescribing Committee (BLMK APC) Newsletter Number 09, May 2023

Welcome to the May 2023 BLMK Area Prescribing Committee newsletter. This newsletter contains a summary of the key recommendations and reflects the output from the ninth BLMK APC, held on 3rd May 2023.

For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see separate [April 2023 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

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will be uploaded to the website and all current approved JPC/MKPAG* documents will also remain on the website, unless superceded.

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

BLMK Primary Care Psoriasis Pathways

New BLMK wide pathways have been developed to provide guidance for the management of psoriasis with topical agents in [adults](#) and in [children](#). These pathways replace previous guidance available in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. Alongside this, the emollients section of the formularies has been reviewed and updated. See the [formulary newsletter](#) for more details.

NEW
GUIDANCE

Position Statement on Shared Care with Private Providers

Due to an increasing number of requests from patients and private healthcare providers to undertake shared care between GPs and the private provider, a [position statement](#) has been developed to support primary care prescribers manage these requests. This covers all shared care requests from private providers regardless of service or therapeutic area.

NEW
GUIDANCE

A template letter is included as an appendix within the position statement, which may be used to respond to private providers when declining a request for shared care.

Biphasic MR Methylphenidate Memo

The Area Prescribing Committee ratified a memo produced by the East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) which provides guidance on the prescribing and equivalence of modified release (MR) biphasic methylphenidate products. This information is particularly relevant during times of supply shortages of specified brands of MR methylphenidate.

NEW
GUIDANCE

Additional guidelines updated / uploaded to the website

Information on the availability of the Lithium app has recently been added to the [Lithium Shared Care Guideline](#) webpage.

WEBSITE
UPDATES

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

Biologic Migraine Prevention Pathway

A [new pathway](#) has been developed to provide guidance on the commissioned pathway for the use of biologic treatments, and botulinum toxin, in the management of chronic and episodic migraine. The pathway has been developed in conjunction with local specialists and is for use in patients who have not responded to at least 3 preventative medicines (or these are contraindicated or not tolerated).

NEW
PATHWAY

Moderate to Severe Atopic Dermatitis Treatment Pathway

A [new pathway](#) has been developed to provide guidance on the commissioned pathway for the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in adults who have had an inadequate response to topical treatments and conventional systemic therapies. The pathway has been developed in conjunction with local specialists.

NEW
PATHWAY

SHARED CARE GUIDELINES

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

- Azathioprine and Mercaptopurine in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Autoimmune Hepatitis (BLMK wide).
- Alemtuzumab for treating relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis: GP blood monitoring only (no prescribing). Applicable to patients under the care of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust only. NB: Arrangements at local Trusts differ, with monitoring retained within the Trust.

NEW / UPDATED
SHARED CARE
GUIDELINES

WOUND CARE FORMULARY UPDATES

The following amendments have been made to the wound care formularies:

- Addition of Hidrawear to the main formulary as SPECIALIST ONLY prescribing (as agreed at March APC).
- Addition of:
 - Suberabsorbent: Cutimed Sorbact
 - Honey dressings: Algivon, Algivon Plus, Activon Tube
 - Bandages: Urgo K2 latex free (18-25cm kit, 10cm bandage; 25-32cm kit, 10cm bandage)

FORMULARY
ADDITIONS,
CHANGES &
UPDATES

NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED

The following NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (ICB Commissioned) have been published during the period 15 February until 19 April 2023 inclusive:

Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity. Technology appraisal guidance [TA875] Published: 08 March 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta875> (added to the formularies with with **RED** traffic light status).

Finerenone for treating chronic kidney disease in type 2 diabetes. Technology appraisal guidance [TA877] Published: 23 March 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta877> (added to the formularies with with **AMBER / AMBER 3** traffic light status).

Casirivimab plus imdevimab, nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19. Technology appraisal guidance [TA878] Published: 29 March 2023 Last updated: 05 April 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878>. Formulary entries to be amended with the following traffic light statuses:

Casirivimab plus imdevimab: **DNP**

Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid): **GREEN** (with restrictions, in accordance with the NICE guidance*)

Sotrovimab: **RED**

Tocilizumab: **RED**

*local implementation plans for TA878 are being agreed and will be communicated separately

[Click here](#) to access all technology appraisal guidelines - ICB and NHSE Commissioned (15 February until 19 April 2023 inclusive)

NICE Guidelines:

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since March 2023 - [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 ([November](#) and [December](#) 2022, [January](#) and [March](#) 2023). In particular:

Dupilumab (Dupixent ▼): risk of ocular adverse reactions and need for prompt management (November 2022)

Action(s) taken: Information has been circulated in the Primary Care Bulletin to raise awareness to GPs. The item was discussed at MSG in January and actions taken away by the Trusts to explore effective communication channels with the GP to ensure they are aware of which patients have received dupilumab.

Valproate: reminder of current Pregnancy Prevention Programme requirements; information on new safety measures to be introduced in the coming months (December 2022)

Action(s) taken: Data has been extracted from a pre-built SystemONE search (which accounts for male and female patients up to age 59). A paper was shared with APC regarding the above in March to raise awareness.

Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration Systems: report adverse incidents on a Yellow Card (January 2023)

Action(s) taken: This item was discussed at April MSG, to raise awareness that e-prescribing systems are medical devices that are subject to MHRA yellow card reporting.

Topical testosterone (Testogel®): risk of harm to children following accidental exposure (January 2023)

Action(s) taken: The [Testosterone fact sheet](#) for GPs was updated to include the information contained within the alert. This has now been published on the BLMK Medicines Management website and linked to the Formularies for reference.

Xaqua® (metolazone) 5mg tablets: exercise caution when switching patients between metolazone preparations (January 2023)

Action(s) taken: Communications have been sent out to the specialists and heart failure clinics. Messages have been built that will fire when the drug is prescribed.

Pholcodine-containing cough and cold medicines: withdrawal from UK market as a precautionary measure (March 2023)

Action(s) taken: The Formularies have been updated to reflect this information and communications have been circulated via the Primary Care Bulletin, to community pharmacies and the Medicines Optimisation team.

Projects being undertaken by the Medicines Safety Group include:

- The **safe discharge project** – themes to be shared in the Medication Safety Newsletter (May 2023).
- Implementation of the **Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF)** within BLMK.
- **Opioid framework:** actions to support people who are taking medicines associated with dependence and withdrawal symptoms.
- Sharing of learning from **locally identified errors and safety incidents**.

ADDITIONAL PAPERS/ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

The [APC terms of reference](#) have been updated and were approved by the Committee.

BLMK APC 2023 MEETING DATES

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 Optimisation website. Please advise us if you notice any issues.

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