

# Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) Newsletter January 2020, Number 78

Summary of Key Recommendations - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 JPC meeting

(For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see separate  
Formulary Newsletter- [click here](#))

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
Luton Clinical Commissioning Group

Unless otherwise stated, the new/updated documents referred to within the Newsletter will shortly be available on  
[GP Ref](#) and [Microguide](#) (also available as a Microguide App).

## PRIMARY CARE OR INTERFACE PRESCRIBING ISSUES

### TREATMENT / PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES

#### Asthma Guidelines (Primary Care)

UPDATED

The Primary care Asthma Guidelines have been updated following the July 2019 update of the British Thoracic Society Guidance.

#### Summary of the main changes :-

- Due to the emergence of specialist oral treatments (hospital only), the treatment options for asthma have increased.
- GPs now advised to seek advice from the specialist team at an earlier stage in the ICS dosing pathway, when patients are not responding/ being managed on moderate doses of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS).
- Earlier intervention from the specialist team will enable patients to switch to the most appropriate treatment, potentially reducing the ICS burden in certain cohorts
- History of atopy added as factor of consideration as part of history taking
- Routine clinical review at least once a year conducted by a trained health care professional, and assessing risk of future asthma attacks (proactive approach to prevention) is recommended.

#### Inhaler Choices (Asthma and COPD) – Environmental Impact Considerations

NEW

Following the publication of the NICE decision aid and service user demand, a 'low carbon footprint inhaler option' paper was developed. The committee agreed to the addition of a range of cost effective, low carbon footprint inhalers to the Joint Formulary to facilitate patient requests. Prescribers are reminded that these options should only be prescribed if specifically requested by a patient. The Asthma and the COPD guidelines have been updated accordingly. This position will be kept under review.

Additional choice of inhalers:

Salbutamol Easyhaler®, Budesonide Turbohaler (Pulmicort®), Beclomethasone Easyhaler®

## Primary Care Management Of Adult Female Urinary Incontinence – Pharmacological Management Pathway

UPDATED

The Priorities Forum are currently updating their Urinary Incontinence Pathway. The JPC has approved the updated version of the 'pharmacological Management pathway' section of this pathway. The updated pharmacological management pathway will be published shortly, after clarification has been received from the Priorities Forum on whether there are any other changes required to the full pathway.

## Luton and Bedfordshire Continence Appliance Prescribing Guidelines

NEW

A Continence Appliance Prescribing guideline has been produced by the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Services. This Guideline was approved for use by the committee. The Joint Formulary will be updated accordingly to incorporate the relevant information.

## Bedfordshire and Luton Prescribing Guideline for Dry Eye Management in Adults

NEW

The guideline (based on Moorfields guidelines) has been produced in consultation with Bedford Hospital and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital Ophthalmologists.

The main purpose of the guideline is:-

- To provide guidance to primary care prescribers on the treatment steps and the most cost effective treatment options for managing dry eye syndrome.

## Updated Dietetics Guidance

UPDATED

The following two guidelines have been updated:-

- **Guidelines For The Prescribing Of Specialist Infant Formula In Primary Care**
- **Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) Prescribing Guidelines**  
(An information sheet for General Practitioners considering prescribing ONS in adults)

## SHARED CARE GUIDELINES AND TREATMENT PATHWAYS

### Drugs For The Treatment Of Dementia - Shared Care/ Transfer Of Care Guideline

UPDATED

The shared care/ transfer of guideline has been extended to include (in addition to Alzheimer's Disease Dementia), Lewy Body Dementia, Vascular Dementia and Parkinson's Disease Dementia. This shared care guideline is applicable for all BCCG and LCCG patients.

### Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Shared Care Guideline For The Use Of Thiopurines (Azathioprine And 6-Mercaptopurine)

UPDATED

The shared care guideline for the use of thiopurines in the treatment of IBD has been reviewed and updated. Due to different operational processes that occur at the two main local hospitals regarding the sharing of care responsibilities, (primarily around blood test monitoring), the decision has been taken to produce two separate

'hospital specific' shared care guidelines. Each version of the shared care guideline clearly outlines the GP responsibilities that apply for individual patients who are under the care of the L&D and Bedford Hospital. In addition, each shared care guideline contains a link to a summary fact sheets for azathioprine and 6-mercaptopurine.

### Amiodarone Shared Care Guideline

NEW

Following a BCCG audit of the prescribing and monitoring of amiodarone, the need for an amiodarone shared care guideline was highlighted. The shared care guideline was approved by the committee for use across BCCG and LCCG.

## JPC BULLETINS/FACT SHEETS

### Bulletin 284:- Aviptadil/phentolamine intracavernosal injection (Invicorp®) for erectile dysfunction

NEW

#### JPC recommendations:-

- The committee agreed to support the addition of Aviptadil/ phentolamine (Invicorp) intracavernosal Injection to the Joint Formulary for the symptomatic treatment of erectile dysfunction in adult males due to neurogenic, vasculogenic, psychogenic, or mixed aetiology as a second line agent for use in those who have failed on oral therapies (oral PDE5 inhibitors).
- Prescribing of Aviptadil/ phentolamine (Invicorp) intracavernosal injection must be initiated by Specialists and may be continued by GPs.

### Bulletin 285:- Rasagiline for Parkinson's Disease

NEW

#### JPC recommendations:-

- The Committee approved the addition of Rasagiline for the treatment of Parkinson's Disease to the Joint Formulary.
- For Specialist initiation only, GPs can then continue to prescribe in Primary Care.

### NOAC Interactions Document (EoEPAC\* bulletin)

UPDATED

- The Committee ratified the EofEPAC updated document

\*EoEPAC – East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

### Linezolid GP Fact Sheet – Prescriber Information

NEW

- A Linezolid GP fact sheet was approved by the committee.
- This information is provided to facilitate the prescribing, supply and monitoring of linezolid in Bedfordshire and Luton CCGs.

## SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

### Bulletin 287:- Infliximab for the management of diarrhoea or colitis associated with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor (ICPI) therapy (EoEPAC\* bulletin)

NEW

#### JPC recommendations:-

- The Committee ratified the EoEPAC bulletin including its list of recommendations

\*EoEPAC – East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

## NICE GUIDANCE ISSUED/UPDATED

(This list contains CCG Commissioned items)

- [Dapagliflozin with insulin for treating type 1 diabetes, Technology appraisal guidance \[TA597\]](#)  
**Specialist initiation, GPs to continue.**
- [Xeomin \(botulinum neurotoxin type A\) for treating chronic sialorrhoea, Technology appraisal guidance \[TA605\]](#)  
**Local Botulinum Guidelines updated to incorporate NICE TA.**
- [Rivaroxaban for preventing atherothrombotic events in people with coronary or peripheral artery disease, Technology appraisal guidance \[TA607\]](#)
- [Pentosan polysulfate sodium for treating bladder pain syndrome, Technology appraisal guidance \[TA610\]](#)  
**Specialist prescribing only, no GP prescribing.**
- [Fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant for treating chronic diabetic macular oedema in phakic eyes after an inadequate response to previous therapy, Technology appraisal guidance \[TA613\]](#)  
**Negative Appraisal – not recommended for this indication.**
- [Cannabis-based medicinal products, NICE guideline \[NG144\]](#)  
This guideline covers prescribing of cannabis-based medicinal products for people with intractable nausea and vomiting, chronic pain, spasticity and severe treatment-resistant epilepsy.
  - Sativex is now recommended as an option for treating spasticity. The JPC has previously endorsed an EoEPAC\* negative position on this treatment in line with previous NICE Guidance. **No prescribing (primary or secondary care) is recommended until the drug has been reviewed via EoEPAC and/or local processes.**
  - Nabilone is recommended for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting – **Specialist prescribing only, no GP prescribing**

\*EoEPAC – East of England Priorities Advisory Committee

#### Post JPC meeting:

The following two NICE TAs have been published after the 4<sup>th</sup> Dec JPC meeting

- [Cannabidiol with clobazam for treating seizures associated with Dravet syndrome, Technology Appraisal \[TA614\]](#)
- [Cannabidiol with clobazam for treating seizures associated with Lennox–Gastaut syndrome](#) , Technology appraisal [TA615]

**Current position:-** No GP prescribing of cannabidiol for either indication is currently recommended.

## SAFETY UPDATE

### Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts

The MHRA Drug Safety Update for September, October and November 2019 were noted by the Committee for information and action.

#### [September 2019 DSU – click here](#)

- Hormone replacement therapy (HRT): further information on the known increased risk of breast cancer with HRT and its persistence after stopping
- Fingolimod (Gilenya ▼): increased risk of congenital malformations; new contraindication during pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential not using effective contraception
- Elmiron (pentosan polysulfate sodium): rare risk of pigmentary maculopathy
- Montelukast (Singulair): reminder of the risk of neuropsychiatric reactions

#### [Oct 2019 DSU - click here](#)

- Ingenol mebutate gel (Picato ▼): increased incidence of skin tumours seen in some clinical studies
- Nivolumab (Opdivo): reports of cytomegalovirus (CMV) gastrointestinal infection or reactivation
- Prescribing medicines in renal impairment: using the appropriate estimate of renal function to avoid the risk of adverse drug reactions

#### [November 2019 DSU - click here](#)

- Yellow fever vaccine: stronger precautions in people with weakened immunity and in those aged 60 years or older
- Carfilzomib (Kyprolis ▼): risk of reactivation of hepatitis B virus

## Additional Papers / issues considered by the Committee

### REGIONAL MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEES

The following papers were noted for information:-

[Sodium Oxybate in Adult Patients](#)

[RMOCLondon Polypharmacy Working Group: Report July 2018](#)

## Forthcoming 2020 JPC Meetings

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

For information on agenda items scheduled for the prospective meetings above and/or if you would like to be included in the consultation for these and/or future agenda items please contact the JPC medicines management team: [Jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net](mailto:Jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net) or [sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net)

## OTHER NEWS

### Use of Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx

To further enhance the communication of JPC advice to GPs, BCCG and LCCG medicine management Teams **are actively reviewing the messages to NetFormulary/Scriptswitch and Optimise Rx** to highlight when JPC guidance is available and including a hyperlink to the GP Ref website.

Contact Us:-  [jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net](mailto:jacqueline.clayton@nhs.net) and [sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.mcgroarty@nhs.net)