

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

Newsletter Number 11, October 2023

Welcome to the October 2023 BLMK Area Prescribing Committee newsletter. This newsletter contains a summary of the key recommendations and reflects the output from the eleventh BLMK APC, held on 27th September 2023.

For full details of Joint Formulary additions / amendments – see separate September 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 as before.

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

Dulaglutide and empagliflozin for the management of Type 2 Diabetes in children and young people

NEW
GUIDANCE

New prescribing guidance information has been developed to support the prescribing of [dulaglutide](#) and [empagliflozin](#) in children and young people, aged 10 or over, with Type 2 Diabetes in primary care. The agreed formulary status for this indication is **SpIS** (specialist initiation and stabilisation, continuation in primary care).

Position Statement on Shared Care with Private Providers

UPDATED

The [position statement on shared care with private providers](#) has been updated to include additional guidance to practices on scenarios which may arise when presented with requests to share care. This covers all shared care requests from private providers regardless of service or therapeutic area.

The template letter, included as an appendix within the position statement, which may be used to respond to private providers when declining a request for shared care has also been updated. The template letter is also available to download separately from the Medicines website.

Additional guidelines updated / uploaded to the website

WEBSITE
UPDATES

BLMK wide recommendations on the formulary status and prescribing of [Medical Devices](#) are now available on the Medicines website. Recommendations are included in the medicines' and wound management formularies, as appropriate.

SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING / COMMISSIONING ISSUES

Severe psoriasis treatment pathway update

UPDATED

The [BLMK treatment pathway](#) for the treatment of severe psoriasis, following failure of standard systemic treatments, has been updated to include additional supporting information and the recently published NICE TA recommendations on [deucravactinib](#).

Crohn's disease pathway update

UPDATED

The [BLMK treatment pathway](#) for the management of moderate to severe Crohn's disease has been updated to include two new treatments recently recommended by NICE ([risankizumab](#) and [upadacitinib](#)).

Migraine pathway update

UPDATED

The [BLMK treatment pathway](#) for the treatment of chronic and episodic migraine, following failure of standard preventative treatments, has been updated to include the recently published NICE TA recommendations for [rimegepant](#).

Rheumatology pathway updates

UPDATED

The following rheumatology pathways have been updated to include the [MHRA drug safety update advice on JAK inhibitors](#): rheumatoid arthritis ([moderate](#) and [severe](#) disease); [psoriatic arthritis](#); and [ankylosing spondylitis / non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis](#). In addition, a 'general prescribing notes' section has been added to the psoriatic arthritis pathway.

WOUND MANAGEMENT FORMULARY UPDATES

Wound care formulary news and updates:

- **Jobst Ulcercare Kit**, compression system for management of venous leg ulcers, has been added to the wound management formularies. This provides a large range of sizes to accommodate larger and taller patients who require compression therapy.
- The wording around the restriction of certain wound management products to Tissue Viability Nurse (TVN) use has been updated to support the appropriate use of high value dressings only when clinically appropriate.
- **Waste reduction in wound care:** Environmental impact will be considered with each product as part of rolling programme of updating the formularies.

WOUND
FORMULARY
NEWS &
UPDATES

The Bedfordshire & Luton wound management formularies may be accessed [here](#). Work is currently being undertaken to align the wound management formularies, and also to add the Milton Keynes practice nurse formulary to the wound management formulary website.

NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL GUIDANCE and GUIDELINES ISSUED / UPDATED

The following NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (ICB Commissioned) have been published during the period 23 June 2023 until 13 September 2023 inclusive:

Deucravacitinib for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis Technology appraisal guidance [TA907] Published: 28 June 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta907> (added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Rimegepant for preventing migraine Technology appraisal guidance [TA906] Published: 05 July 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta906> (added to formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity in young people aged 12 to 17 years (terminated appraisal) Technology appraisal [TA910] Published: 13 July 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta910> (no addition to formularies – terminated appraisal)

Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity Technology appraisal guidance [TA875] Published: 08 March 2023 Last updated: 04 September 2023 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta875> (on formularies with **RED** traffic light status).

[Click here](#) to access **all** technology appraisal guidelines - ICB and NHSE Commissioned (23 June 2023 until 13 September 2023 inclusive)

NICE Guidelines:

NICE have published several NICE Guidelines since July 2023 - [click here](#) to access these guidelines.

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.

This update focussed on the primary care response to the MHRA Drug Safety Updates ([May](#), [June](#) and [July](#) 2023). In particular:

Febuxostat: updated advice for the treatment of patients with a history of major cardiovascular disease (May 2023)

Action(s) taken: The DSU has been linked to the formulary entries and supportive messaging deployed to GP practices recommending allopurinol as first line therapy for patients with major cardiovascular disease. Whilst the restrictions have relaxed somewhat following the publication of the FAST study, the ICS have not made any changes and continue to endorse allopurinol first line, consistent with [NICE NG219](#) – management of gout.

Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs): paediatric formulations; reminder of dose adjustments in patients with renal impairment (May 2023)

Action(s) taken: a review of prescribing data and the formularies identified that paediatric formulations are non-formulary products in BLMK and there is no significant prescribing of liquid preparations. Accurate dosing of DOACs for adults is an ongoing workstream and there is a suite of messages deployed on Optimise Rx to support prescribers with monitoring and dose adjustments in primary care. In addition, a DOAC dashboard (via Eclipse) went live in April 2023 to help practices identify patients who may require further monitoring or dose adjustments of their DOAC.

Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs): new guidance and resources for safe use (June 2023)

Action(s) taken: The new resources have been linked to the Formulary entries and the information has also been disseminated via newsletters. The information is also linked from Optimise Rx, which covers information to support prescribers with the Class 1 patient level recall of Emerade (MHRA DSU launched May 2023). The message recommends patients are switched to EpiPen or Jext as alternatives, following reports that Emerade devices failed to deliver the product or activated prematurely. The recall information is also available on the Formulary entries.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): potential risks following prolonged use after 20 weeks of pregnancy (June 2023)

Action(s) taken: The DSU has been linked to the Formularies for information. NSAIDs in later stages of pregnancy are already a known risk, however scoping and ideas for improvement workstreams are planned for inclusion at the next locality meeting.

Hyoscine hydrobromide patches (Scopoderm 1.5mg Patch or Scopoderm TTS Patch): risk of anticholinergic side effects, including hyperthermia (July 2023)

Action(s) taken: The DSU has been linked to the Formulary entries for the patches. Further review to identify at risk patients is planned to identify patients who are using the patches outside of the license, as the DSU indicates this cohort are most at risk. Usage outside the licence includes:

- Indications other than motion or travel sickness (e.g. hypersalivation).
- Use in children younger than 10 years of age.
- Cutting patches (this may adversely affect the bioavailability of the drug).
- Application of more than one patch at a time.
- Continuous use without a break.
- Long-term use.

Projects being undertaken by the Medicines Safety Group (MSG) include:

- **System wide review of interface incidents (discharge)** – the MSG have been collaborating across the system to identify and mitigate against risks as patients move across the interface. A workshop was held whereby a collation of recent interface incidents were reviewed collaboratively amongst ICS partners and the following three key themes for action/ further review were identified:
 - Completion of documentation
 - DOACs & anticoagulation
 - Medicines reconciliation

The findings were shared in the [ICS Medication Safety Group newsletter](#) in July 2023.

- **System wide reconciliation of shortages** – the MSG has begun to include high impact shortages where appropriate on the agenda for discussion, as it has been identified that non-availability of some of the products may generate Medication Safety risks. This has recently included GLP1 agonist, ketamine 10mg/ml injection and Tresiba (insulin degludec) shortages.
- **Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) workstream** – PSIRF has been discussed at the MSG, including the dissemination of information from national workshops and sharing of good practice e.g. how to conduct an After Action Review (AAR).

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE UPDATE

An update on primary care antimicrobial prescribing was provided for the Committee:

- Total antibiotic prescribing remains raised following the Group A Strep outbreak in the winter of last year. This is a national trend, however BLMK prescribing is higher than the England average. This is primarily driven by a sustained increase in amoxicillin and phenoxymethylpenicillin prescribing.
- Broad spectrum prescribing remains below NHS England targets, in comparison to overall antibiotic prescribing, but this is mainly due to the continued higher levels of overall antibiotic prescribing.

Reminder: A new BLMK antibiotics guidelines website has been developed, which may be accessed [here](#).

BLMK APC 2023/2024 MEETING DATES

Wednesday 6th December 2023

Wednesday 28th February 2024

Wednesday 1st May 2024

Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Wednesday 25th September 2024

Wednesday 4th December 2024

OTHER NEWS

Use of Optimise Rx

To further enhance the communication of BLMK APC advice to GPs, the BLMK ICB medicines optimisation team **are actively reviewing the messages on NetFormulary 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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