

Antimicrobial Management Group

Information for all NHS Tayside GP Practice staff



September 2019

5 Key Messages - VISION Default Antibiotic Dosing and Durations within GP Practices

1

Over the last few years durations of treatment for a number of infections have been reduced – see Primary Care Empirical Infection Guidance (Antibiotic Man). Dosing and durations of antibiotics on Vision may still be set to national defaults and not reflect current local prescribing guidance, for example a number have reduced from 7 or 10 days to 5 days. Several Boards in Scotland have a higher percentage of 5 day prescriptions for common antimicrobials, such as amoxicillin and clarithromycin, compared to NHS Tayside. Default information for any medicine can easily be changed within each practice. Changing default messages is an opportunity to guide prescribing of treatments for common infections and reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance through unnecessary exposure.

2

A step-by-step guide of how to change antibiotic defaults within a GP practice using VISION is shown below. There is also a list of suggested antimicrobials to consider updating, along with the appropriate dosing and duration for the most common infections treated in primary care. The steps to change default information are simple and quick to complete. The antibiotics in the attached list were updated in 6 GP practices in Dundee and this was completed within 5-10 minutes in each practice. The update of the default dosing and duration only has been carried out once in each practice and will not be overwritten when the practice completes a formulary update (either addition or replacement of the Tayside Vision Formulary).

3

Unlike the EMIS system, Vision only allows for 1 default to be recorded for each drug, so care must be taken with antibiotics that are used to treat different indications. Default information should reflect the most common indications for treatment within the practice. Prescribers are responsible for ensuring that the correct dose and duration are selected for a specific infection when prescribing. Common examples:

Amoxicillin - 500mg three times daily (5 days) for exacerbation of COPD and the higher dose 1g three times daily for non severe community acquired pneumonia

Flucloxacillin – 500mg four times daily (7 days) for impetigo and the higher dose 1g four times daily is required for cellulitis

The Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) are planning a respiratory focussed NSS generated GP feedback report on antimicrobials which will be sent direct to GP practices and will highlight review of default durations. Local work to review defaults could be considered in practices prior to the winter season when antimicrobials for respiratory infections usually increase significantly.

5

Our team does not see the nationally issued reports but at any time we are happy to discuss with practices any queries about antibiotic prescribing data and ideas for potential improvement. Antibiotic treatment durations are likely to change further in the future and any prescribing updates will be circulated to GP practices.

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats facing us today.

Both the public and the medical community can help by becoming an Antibiotic Guardian and choosing a simple pledge [here](#)



For further information or advice contact the Antimicrobial Management Team (AMT) on Tay-UHB.antibioticpharm@nhs.net

4 How to change a default prescribing message for a drug in Vision

1. Enter a patient's file on Vision (preferably an active dummy patient file if available) then click on "Therapy" tab, then click on "Repeats".

Last Issued	Drug	Iss	Max	Dosage	Q...	Preparation	Pro...	Authorised	Repeats
<input type="checkbox"/> 30/07/2019	Zolmitriptan 2.5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free	1	6	TAKE ONE AS DIRECTED USE NO MORE THAN TWO DAYS PER WEEK	24	tablet		29/04/2019	
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/07/2019	Rivaroxaban 20mg tablets	4	6	TAKE ONE ONCE DAILY WITH FOOD AS DIRECTED BY VASCULAR PHYSICIAN	56	tablet		04/12/2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/07/2019	Levothyroxine sodium 25microgram tablets	4	6	1 TABLET ONCE A DAY	56	tablet		04/12/2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/07/2019	Levothyroxine sodium 100microgram tablets	5	6	1 TABLET ONCE A DAY	56	tablet		20/11/2018	

2. Next, start typing the name of the drug that you wish to change the default details for eg. clarithromycin as below. If the wrong strength or formulation appears, double click the mouse over the drug name to see other available options of the drug and select the correct one. Then, right click anywhere in the drug box so that the pop-up box below appears.

Repeat Master - Add

Date Prescribed: 19 August 2019 Prescriber: Doctor, Mr Locum Source of Drug: In practice

Drug: Clarithromycin 500mg tablets

Quantity: Preparation: tablet Pack Size: Treat Days:

Dosage:

Drug Class: Macrolides

Preparation Details...
Drug Defaults
Dosage Codes
Batch Numbers

Repeat Until Date:
Days Between Issues:
Min: Max:

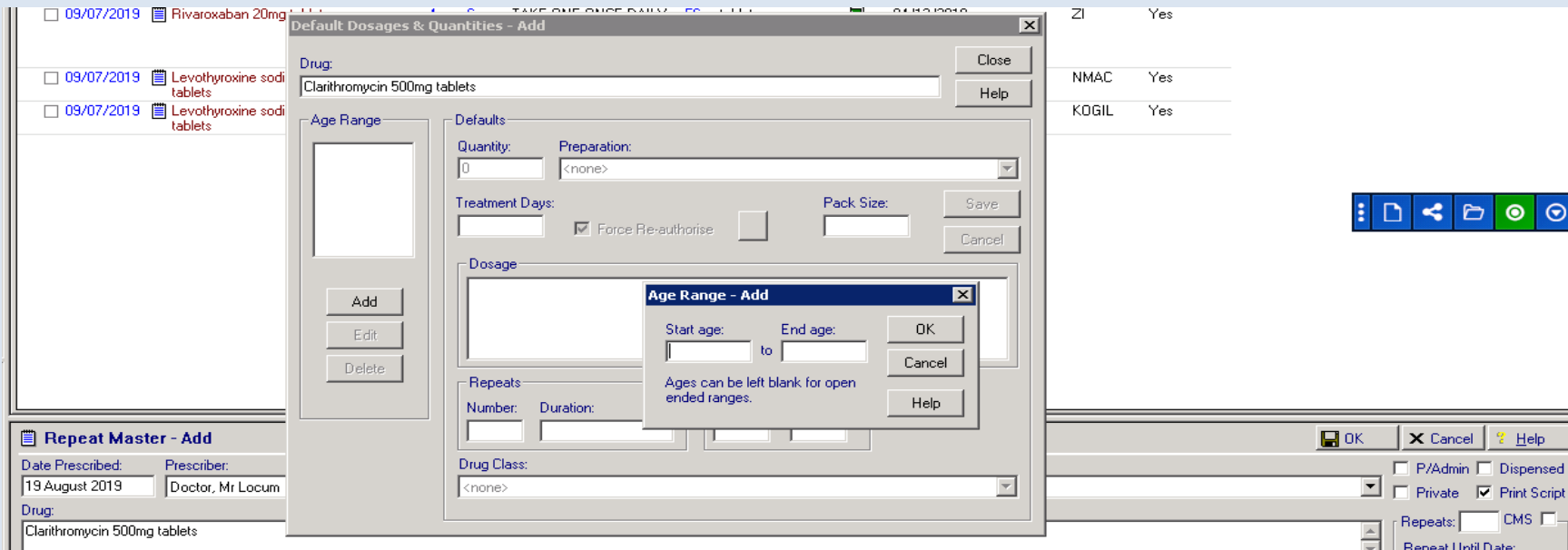
P/Admin Dispensed
 Private Print Script
Repeats: CMS
 Force Re-authorise

No drug allergy status recorded.

3. Hover the mouse over the “Drug Defaults” option then click on “Maintain”.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Repeat Master - Add". The window contains several input fields and a context menu. The "Date Prescribed" field is set to "19 August 2019", the "Prescriber" dropdown is "Doctor, Mr Locum", and the "Source of Drug" dropdown is "In practice". The "Drug" field contains "Clarithromycin 500mg tablets". The "Quantity" field is empty, and the "Preparation" dropdown is "tablet". The "Dosage" field is empty. The "Drug Class" dropdown is "Macrolides". A context menu is open over the "Drug Defaults" option, with "Maintain" selected. Other options in the menu include "Preparation Details...", "Dosage Codes", and "Batch Numbers". The "Pack Size" and "Treat Days" fields are also visible. A red banner at the bottom of the window reads "No drug allergy status recorded."

4. The Default Dosages & Quantities box below will then appear. First click “Add” below the Age Range box. The smaller pop up will then appear. If desired, enter an age range otherwise leave both boxes blank and click OK to proceed.



5. Next add in Quantity of drug and Dosage to be added to the default message – see example below. Then click “Save” then “Close”.

09/07/2019 Rivaroxaban 20mg
 09/07/2019 Levothyroxine sodi tablets
 09/07/2019 Levothyroxine sodi tablets

Default Dosages & Quantities - Add

Drug: Clarithromycin 500mg tablets

Age Range: All ages

Quantity: 10 Preparation: <none>

Treatment Days: Force Re-authorise Pack Size: Save Cancel

Dosage: TAKE ONE TABLET TWICE DAILY FOR 5 DAYS

Repeats: Number: Duration: Days Between Issues: Minimum: Maximum:

Drug Class: <none>

Repeat Master - Add

Date Prescribed: 19 August 2019 Prescriber: Doctor, Mr Locum

Drug: Clarithromycin 500mg tablets

ZI Yes
 NMAC Yes
 KOGIL Yes

OK Cancel Help

P/Admin Dispe
 Private Print S
 Repeats: CMS
 Repeat Until Date:

The update of the default dosing and duration only has be carried out once in each practice and will not be overwritten when the practice completes a formulary update (either addition or replacement of the Tayside Vision Formulary).

Suggested antibiotic vision default messages – comments in red for info only, do not need to be included in the default message

trimethoprim 200mg tablets - take 1 tablet twice daily for 3 days (6 tablets quantity)

nitrofurantoin 100mg MR capsules - take 1 capsule twice daily for 3 days (6 capsules quantity)

phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg tablets - take 2 tablets 4 times daily for 5 days (40 tablets quantity) for tonsillitis reduced from previous duration of 10 days

metronidazole 200mg tablets - take 2 tablets three times daily for 5 days (30 tablets quantity) – for diverticulitis

metronidazole 400mg tablets - use 200mg instead, cost saving

aciclovir 800mg tablets - take 1 tablet 5 times daily for 7 days (35 tablets quantity)

clarithromycin 500mg tablets - take 1 tablet twice daily for 5 days (10 tablets quantity)

doxycycline 100mg capsules - take 2 capsules on day 1, then take 1 capsule daily for 4 further days. (6 capsules quantity) – for exacerbation of COPD.

amoxicillin 500mg capsules - take 1 capsule 3 times daily for 5 days (15 capsules quantity) – for exacerbation of COPD. Note: community acquired pneumonia dose is 1g TDS for 5 days

co-trimoxazole 960mg tablets - take 1 tablet twice daily for 7 days (14 tablets quantity) – for upper UTI

co-amoxiclav 625mg tablets - take 1 tablet three times daily for 7 days (21 tablets quantity)

ofloxacin 200mg tablets - take 1 tablet twice daily for 14 days (28 tablets quantity) - epididymo-orchitis

flucloxacillin 500mg capsules - take 2 capsules 4 times daily for 5 days (56 capsules) – for cellulitis. Note: impetigo dose is 500mg QDS

pivmecillinam 200mg tablets – take 2 tablets 3 times daily for 3 days (18 tablets quantity) - Note: longer course of 5 days (30 tablets) for PROVEN ESBL in females