

# TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

## Tayside DTC Supplement No 92

August/September 2009

Produced by NHS Tayside Drug and Therapeutics Committee Medicines Advisory Group (MAG)

### SMC Advice issued in August and September 2009

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Brinzolamide/timolol eye drops, suspension (Azarga®) – <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Decrease of intraocular pressure in adults with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension	Non-formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Calcipotriol and betamethasone dipropionate, 50 micrograms/g + 500 microgram/g gel (Xamiol®)	Topical treatment of scalp psoriasis	Non- formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a> <b>*Prescribing notes detailed below</b> <a href="#">Click here</a> for updated TAPG guidance on the management of psoriasis
Darunavir 400mg tablets (Prezista®)	With low dose ritonavir and in combination with other antiretroviral medicinal products for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in ART-naïve adults	Pending AMG decision	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Degarelix 120mg, 80mg powder and solvent for solution for injection (Firmagon®)	Advanced hormone-dependent prostate cancer in adult male patients	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>
Etanercept (Enbrel®) – <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Chronic severe plaque psoriasis in children and adolescents	Pending specialist feedback	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Etoricoxib (Arcoxia®) - <i>Non submission</i>	Ankylosing spondylitis	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>
Etravirine 100mg tablet (Intelence®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	HIV-1 infection in antiretroviral treatment-experienced adult patients	Pending AMG decision	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Fosamprenavir 50mg/ml oral suspension and 700mg film-coated tablet (Telzir®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	HIV-1 infected adolescents and children of six years and above in combination with other antiretroviral medicinal products	HOSPITAL ONLY Non-formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a> <b>To be prescribed only under the direction of tertiary specialist centres</b>
Histrelin acetate 50mg subcutaneous implant (Vantas®)	Palliative treatment of advanced prostate cancer	HOSPITAL ONLY Non -formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Lamivudine/zidovudine fixed dose combination (Combivir®) – <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	HIV in paediatric patients weighing 14kg to 30kg	HOSPITAL ONLY Non-formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a> <b>To be prescribed only under the direction of tertiary specialist centres</b>
Mecasermin 10mg/mL solution for injection (Increlex®)	Long-term treatment of growth failure in children and adolescents with severe primary insulin-like growth factor-1 deficiency (primary IGFD)	HOSPITAL ONLY Non-formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a> <b>To be prescribed only under the direction of tertiary paediatric endocrine centres</b>

## SMC Advice issued in August and September 2009- continued

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Peginterferon alfa-2a, 135 microgram/mL and 180 microgram/mL pre-filled injections of solution for subcutaneous injection (Pegasys®)	In combination with ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in adult patients who have failed previous treatment with interferon alfa (pegylated or non-pegylated) alone or in combination with ribavirin	HOSPITAL ONLY (Hepatitis only) Non-formulary for this indication	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Prasugrel 5 & 10mg tablets (Efient®)	Co-administered with aspirin for the prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients with acute coronary syndrome undergoing primary or delayed percutaneous coronary intervention	Pending specialist feedback	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Ranolazine 375mg, 500mg & 750mg prolonged-release tablets (Ranexa®)	Add-on therapy for the symptomatic treatment of patients with stable angina Pectoris who are inadequately controlled or intolerant to first-line antianginal therapies (such as beta-blockers and/or calcium antagonists)	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>
Rotigotine, 1mg, 2mg and 3mg per 24 hours transdermal patch (Neupro®)	Symptomatic treatment of moderate to severe idiopathic Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) in adults.	Pending specialist feedback on monitoring arrangements	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>

Click here for [August](#) and [September](#) Briefing Notes

### \*Calcipotriol and betamethasone dipropionate gel (Xamiol®)- Prescribing notes

Xamiol® gel should be applied to affected areas of the scalp once daily. The recommended treatment period is 4 weeks. After this period repeated treatment with Xamiol® gel can be initiated under medical supervision.

All the affected scalp areas may be treated with Xamiol® gel. Usually an amount between 1 g and 4 g per day is sufficient for treatment of the scalp (4g corresponds to one teaspoon).

When using calcipotriol containing products, the maximum daily dose should not exceed 15 g, and the maximum weekly dose should not exceed 100 g.

Xamiol® gel is not recommended for use in children below 18 years due to lack of data on safety and efficacy. Refer to the [SMC](#) for further information.

### Glyceryl Trinitrate Buccal tablets - Suscard® is currently unavailable

The GTN (Suscard® Buccal) protocol for chest pain of suspected cardiac origin has been re-written and now includes use of GTN spray/tablets. This will replace the Suscard® Buccal protocol link in section 2.6 of the Tayside Area Prescribing Guide. [Click here](#) for updated protocol.

## Pregabalin update

NHS Tayside advice for the use of pregabalin in peripheral neuropathic pain is as follows:

### Tayside recommendation

Non-formulary

- Pregabalin may be used in patients who have not achieved adequate pain relief from, or did not tolerate, first or second line drug treatments
- The neuropathic pain management guidelines and algorithm ([click here](#) to view) have now been updated to reflect the addition of pregabalin. A new patient information leaflet is in the final stages of development.
- A Tayside Prescriber on the Management of Neuropathic Pain is in development and will be available later in the year.

## Priadel Liquid – Lithium Citrate 520mg in 5ml (equivalent to 200mg /5ml lithium carbonate).

The current carton and label incorrectly state that the strength of the solution is 200mg/5ml. This is the equivalent strength of lithium carbonate and NOT the strength of lithium citrate. There is a high potential for overdose with the product because prescriptions may be written based on the dose of lithium citrate.

A class 4 drug alert was issued on 15<sup>th</sup> June 09 to all Chief Pharmacist for distribution to physicians, pharmacists and wholesalers for appropriate action. [Drug Alert- Priadel Liquid \(lithium citrate\)](#)

New packaging that displays the correct strength will be available from early September 2009. Until then, the MHRA advise to take extra care and ensure that when Priadel Liquid has been prescribed, the correct strength is given to the patient. [Drug Safety Update July 2009](#)

## Rotigotine (Neupro®) transdermal patches: lifting of prescribing restrictions

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has now lifted the supply and treatment restrictions for Neupro® (rotigotine transdermal patches) for people with idiopathic Parkinson's disease or restless legs syndrome (RLS).

Since June 2008, restrictions limited prescribing to one month's supply and no new patients were started on this medicine. This was due to issues relating to storage that resulted in the development of crystals in some patches.

A cold chain storage and distribution system has now been fully implemented by the manufacturer.

- Rotigotine patches can once again be prescribed for the approved indications of idiopathic Parkinson's disease or restless legs syndrome
- Prescriptions are no longer limited to one month's supply
- Patients must store their patches in the refrigerator and not the freezer.

[Drug Safety Update August 2009](#)

## Rivaroxaban local treatment protocol – minor change

In Section 8, another sub title has been added and the text amended to read as follows:

### Removal of peripheral nerve or epidural catheters

Peripheral nerve catheters or epidural catheters are not to be removed earlier than 18 hours after the last administration of rivaroxaban. After catheter removal the next rivaroxaban dose must not be administered until at least 6 hours have elapsed.

[Click here](#) for the updated protocol.

## TAPG Update – August 09

	TAPG section	Drug(s)/topic	Changes
3	Respiratory System	3.1 Bronchodilators	Prescribing note inserted on drugs to be used with caution / avoid in patients with respiratory disease.
		3.2 Inhaled steroids	Table inserted on equivalent doses of inhaled steroids
3	Respiratory Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Management of Acute Asthma for under 12 years</li> <li>• Emergency Management of Acute Asthma in Adults and Children over 12 years</li> <li>• Notes on Managing Chronic Asthma</li> </ul>	Links updated as per SIGN 101 – British Guideline on the Management of Asthma (Revised June 2009)
4.7.4	Antimigraine Drugs	<p>Acute treatment / Mild to moderate migraine</p> <p>Prophylaxis</p>	<p>Headache guidelines now incorporated into section 4.7.4.</p> <p>Sample weekly headache diary inserted.</p> <p>Paramax (paracetamol/metoclopramide combination) removed.</p> <p>Aspirin, ibuprofen or paracetamol at full dose (900mg aspirin, 400mg ibuprofen or 1g paracetamol) are recommended for acute treatment.</p> <p>Sentence on 'Use aspirin &amp; NSAIDs with caution in asthma and avoid in peptic ulceration' added.</p> <p>Table on the main efficacy and tolerability measures for the oral triptans versus sumatriptan 100mg (taken from SIGN 107) inserted.</p> <p>Pizotifen removed.</p> <p>Venlafaxine added as alternative to tricyclic antidepressants (taken from SIGN 107).</p> <p>Sodium valproate dose range increased as per SIGN 107 (new range – 400mg – 1,500mg daily).</p> <p>Gabapentin added as per SIGN 107.</p> <p>Table on prophylactic therapies for patients with migraine added as per SIGN 107.</p>
13	Dermatology Guidance Notes	Management of Psoriasis - Scalp	Sentence added on Xamiol® (calcipotriol / betamethasone dipropionate scalp gel), a newer combination preparation, which may be more effective than monotherapy for some people.
19	Oxygen Therapy in Acute Management	Oxygen	This section has been reviewed. Covers critically unwell patients, other hypoxic patients, oxygen prescription, monitoring, postoperative patients and summary.

\*SMC accepted

## Forthcoming SMC Advice

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