

# TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER



## Tayside DTC Supplement No 95 – February/March 2010

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



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## Tayside switch to ferrous fumarate

The Tayside Area Prescribing Guide (TAPG) first choice oral iron preparation has been changed to ferrous fumarate 210mg.

Ferrous sulphate 200mg tablets are now a second line choice of oral iron within the TAPG. Ferrous sulphate has replaced ferrous gluconate (now non-formulary).

This is a switch from ferrous sulphate 200mg tablets, and is estimated to save up to £63,000 for NHS Tayside (assuming 100% of patients are switched). We advise liaising with local community pharmacies before switching to prescribing ferrous fumarate. The switch is to be implemented throughout primary and secondary care in NHS Tayside.

- Any patients starting on oral iron treatment should be prescribed ferrous fumarate tablets 210mg (68mg iron per tablet) - one tablet three times daily. Treatment with an iron preparation is justified only in the presence of a demonstrable iron-deficiency state after exclusion of any serious underlying cause of anaemia (e.g. gastric erosion, gastro-intestinal cancer). Treatment with oral iron is usually for 4-6 months in total as once the haemoglobin level has returned to normal treatment is continued for a further 3 months to replenish iron stores.
- Any patients already taking oral iron for maintenance iron replacement should be reviewed. In adults, maintenance iron replacement (or prophylaxis of iron deficiency), usually at a lower dosage, may be appropriate in malabsorption, menorrhagia, pregnancy, after subtotal or total gastrectomy, and in haemodialysis patients. If continued prescription of oral iron is required, patients should be prescribed ferrous fumarate tablets 210mg – one tablet daily.
- Any patients already taking oral iron treatment as ferrous sulphate tablets 200mg – one tablet three times daily, could be switched to ferrous fumarate if appropriate, in relation to duration of remaining treatment.

## Creon® patient information leaflet

This guide to using pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (Creon®) has recently been updated. The patient information leaflet is evidence based and contains useful information about starting patients on Creon® and self management to avoid symptoms of malabsorption. It can be found on the Tayside Staffnet by [clicking here](#)

## SMC Advice issued in February/March 2010

SMC website: [www.scottishmedicines.org.uk](http://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk)

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Aliskiren 150mg and 300mg film-coated tablets (Rasilez®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Treatment of essential hypertension	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>
Calcium acetate 667mg hard capsules (PhosLo®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Prevention/treatment of hyperphosphataemia in patients with advanced renal failure on dialysis	HOSPITAL ONLY Non formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Cetuximab 100mg/20ml and 500mg/100ml solution for intravenous infusion (Erbix®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Treatment of patients with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-expressing, Kirsten rat sarcoma (KRAS) wild-type metastatic colorectal cancer in combination with chemotherapy	Pending OHMMG decision	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Darunavir 75mg, 150mg, 300mg, 600mg film-coated tablets (Prezista®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Co-administered with low dose ritonavir in combination with other antiretroviral medicinal products for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection in highly pre-treated children and adolescents, from the age of 6 years and at least 20kg body weight, who have failed on more than one regimen containing a protease inhibitor (PI)	Pending specialist/AMG feedback	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Epoetin alfa 1,000 IU/0.5ml, 2,000 IU/1ml, 3,000 IU/0.3ml, 4,000 IU/0.4ml, 5,000 IU/0.5ml, 6,000 IU/0.6ml, 7,000 IU/0.7ml, 8,000 IU/0.8ml, 9,000 IU/0.9ml, 10,000 IU/1ml solution for injection in prefilled syringe (Binocrit®) - <i>Full submission</i>	Treatment of symptomatic anaemia associated with chronic renal failure in adult and paediatric patients.  See SMC summary advice for further details of indications	Not recommended in Tayside Non formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Extended release epidural morphine 10mg/ml (10mg, 15mg and 20mg (Depodur®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Relief of post-operative pain following major orthopaedic, abdominal or pelvic surgery	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>
Ketoprofen/omeprazole 100mg/20mg; 200mg/20mg modified release capsules (Axorid®) - <i>Full submission</i>	Symptomatic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and osteoarthritis in patients with a previous history or who are at risk of developing NSAID associated gastric ulcers, duodenal ulcers and gastroduodenal erosions in whom continued treatment with ketoprofen is essential	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>
Pemetrexed 100mg, 500mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Alimta®) - <i>2<sup>nd</sup> resubmission</i>	In combination with cisplatin for the first line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) other than predominantly squamous cell histology.	Pending OHMMG decision	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Rupatadine (Rupafin®) - <i>Non submission</i>	Symptomatic treatment of allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria in adults and adolescents (over 12 years of age)	<b>Not recommended</b>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a>

## SMC Advice issued in February/March 2010 – continued

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Saxagliptin 5mg film-coated tablet (Onglyza <sup>®</sup> ) - <i>Full submission</i>	<p>Treatment of adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus as add-on combination therapy with metformin, when metformin alone, with diet and exercise, does not provide adequate glycaemic control.</p> <p>Restricted to use in patients only when the addition of sulphonylureas is not appropriate, and represents an alternative to other agents such as thiazolidinediones.</p>	Pending specialist feedback	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Sildenafil, 20mg (as citrate) tablets (Revatio <sup>®</sup> ) - <i>Full submission</i>	Treatment of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) classified as WHO functional class II, to improve exercise capacity. Efficacy has been shown in primary pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary hypertension associated with connective tissue disease.	Restricted to initiation and supply by specialists working in the Scottish Pulmonary Vascular Centres	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Somatropin for injection, 5mg/ml vial of powder and solvent for solution for subcutaneous injection and 3.3mg/ml and 6.7mg/ml penfill cartridge of solution for subcutaneous injection (Omnitrope <sup>®</sup> ) - <i>Full submission</i>	See SMC summary advice for details of indications	<p>Non formulary</p> <p>GPs may prescribe under the direction of Endocrine Clinics</p>	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a> <i>BNF advises that it is good practice to use the brand name when prescribing biological medicinal products.</i>
Tipranavir (Aptivus <sup>®</sup> ) 100mg/ml oral solution - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	In combination with low dose ritonavir for combination antiretroviral treatment of HIV-1 infection in highly pre-treated children from 2 to 12 years of age with virus resistant to multiple protease inhibitors	Pending specialist/AMG feedback	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Tipranavir (Aptivus <sup>®</sup> ) 250mg soft capsule - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	In combination with low dose ritonavir for combination antiretroviral treatment of HIV-1 infection in highly pre-treated adolescents 12 years of age or older with virus resistant to multiple protease inhibitors	Pending specialist/AMG feedback	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>

## SMC Advice issued in February/March 2010 – continued

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Trospium chloride 20mg film-coated tablets (Flotros®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Symptomatic treatment of urge incontinence and/or increased urinary frequency and urgency as may occur in patients with overactive bladder (eg idiopathic or neurologic detrusor overactivity)	Non-formulary	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Ulipristal acetate, 30mg tablet (EllaOne®) - <i>Full submission</i>	Emergency contraception within 120 hours (5 days) of unprotected sexual intercourse or contraceptive failure	Pending	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Ustekinumab, 45mg solution for injection (Stelara®) - <i>Full submission</i>	Treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults who failed to respond to, or who have a contraindication to, or are intolerant to other systemic therapies including ciclosporin, methotrexate and psoralen and UVA treatment (PUVA)	Deferred	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>

## Updates from previous SMC Advice

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Darunavir 400mg tablets (Prezista®) - <i>Full submission</i>	With low dose ritonavir and in combination with other antiretroviral medicinal products for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in ART-naïve adults	HOSPITAL ONLY HIV clinic	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Etravirine 100mg tablet (Intelence®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	In combination with a boosted protease inhibitor and other antiretroviral medicinal products in HIV-1 infection in antiretroviral treatment-experienced adult patients	HOSPITAL ONLY HIV clinic	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a>
Prasugrel 5 & 10mg tablets (Efient®) - <i>Full submission</i>	Co-administered with aspirin for the prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients with acute coronary syndrome undergoing primary or delayed percutaneous coronary intervention	Formulary (prescribing note) To be initiated by cardiologists using specialist treatment pathway. GPs may prescribe under the direction of a specialist	<a href="#">SMC advice</a> <a href="#">SPC link</a> <a href="#">Link to Angioplasty antiplatelet algorithm</a>

## SMC Briefing Note:

Click here for [February](#) and [March](#) Briefing Note

## Tayside Area Prescribing Guide (TAPG) Updates – February/March 2010

	TAPG section	Drug(s)/topic	Changes
2.9	Antiplatelet Drugs	Aspirin and clopidogrel  Prasugrel	Minor changes to wording  Added to formulary as a prescribing note. See Angioplasty antiplatelet algorithm ( <a href="#">click here</a> ) outlining specialist treatment pathway for further information.
3.6	Oxygen	General considerations	Note on use of oxygen alert cards in acute COPD and other conditions vulnerable to hypercapnic respiratory failure inserted.
9.1	Anaemias and other blood disorders	Oral iron	First choice now ferrous fumarate. Ferrous sulphate now second line choice. Ferrous gluconate removed. Prescribing information on treatment with oral iron added.

### Who produces this bulletin?

This bulletin is produced by the Medicines Advisory Group (MAG), which is a sub-group of the NHS Tayside Drug and Therapeutic Committee.

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### Forthcoming SMC Advice

Local implementation of SMC recommendations is taken forward by the Tayside Medicines Governance Unit. This bulletin is based on evidence available to the Tayside Medicines Governance Unit at time of publication and is covered by the Disclaimer and Terms & Conditions of use. [CLICK HERE](#) for access to the Medicines Governance section of the Pharmacy Staffnet site.