

TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

Tayside DTC Supplement No 76

Jan 2008

Produced by NHS Tayside Drug and Therapeutics Committee

SMC Advice issued in January 2008

| Medicine | Indication | Local recommendation category | Comments and useful links |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Beclometasone, formoterol MDI (Fostair®) <i>Abbreviated submission</i> | Treatment of Asthma | Non-formulary | NB Not licensed under 18 years SMC Advice SPC link TAPG Chronic Asthma over 12 years algorithm |
| Latanoprost, timolol eyedrops (Xalacom®) <i>Abbreviated submission</i> | Reduction of intraocular pressure | Formulary (prescribing note) | SMC Advice SPC Link |
| Standardised allergen extract of grass pollen from Timothy (Phleum pratense) (Grazax®) <i>Resubmission</i> | Grass pollen induced rhinitis and conjunctivitis in adults | Not recommended | SMC Advice SMC briefing note |

TAPG Update

| | TAPG section | Drug(s)/topic | Changes |
|----|--|---|--|
| 4 | Central Nervous System Guidelines | Summary Guidance for Smoking Cessation in Tayside | Update on combining NRT products following advice from the Report of the Committee on Safety of Medicines Working Group on Nicotine Replacement Therapy. Incorporation of advice regarding depression and suicidal thoughts associated with varenicline. See MHRA advice |
| 11 | Eye | Treatment of glaucoma | Addition of latanoprost, timolol eyedrops (Xalacom®)* as a prescribing note highlighting the more convenient dosing regimen compared to separate individual constituents. |

* SMC accepted medicine

Natalizumab update

Further to the development of a [local protocol](#), NHS Tayside advice for the use of natalizumab in relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) has been updated as follows:

Tayside recommendation
HOSPITAL ONLY (MS clinic)

- Natalizumab is recommended for use in patients with RRMS who have highly active disease (rapidly evolving severe RRMS) and an expanded disability status scale (EDSS) in the range of 0-5 who have failed on, or are unsuitable for, conventional disease modifying therapy.

Methadone 5mg/ml Formulation – not recommended in Tayside

A new strength of methadone hydrochloride available as Eptadone® 5mg/ml oral solution is **not recommended** to be prescribed or dispensed in Tayside.

This product is 5 times the strength of formulations of methadone oral solution 1mg/ml currently available. It is colourless and lemon flavoured, and therefore does not resemble traditional methadone 1mg/ml oral solution. Due to the potential danger of wrongful ingestion, Tayside Substance Misuse Services will continue to prescribe 'methadone mixture DTF 1mg/ml' as recommended within the Tayside Area Prescribing Guide. The 5mg/ml product is not stocked by hospital pharmacies within Tayside. (As a branded generic, this product falls out-with the SMC remit).

Symptomatic Relief Policy Update

Dosage directions for senna tablets 7.5mg and Senokot® syrup 7.5mg/5ml have been changed within the NHS Tayside Generic Symptomatic Relief Policy document (THB(MR)024SR) for use with the Tayside Prescription and Administration Record (TPAR) for hospital patient prescribing.

The new dosage directions: 2 tablets or 10ml may be given at night. Maximum: 1 dose in 24 hours, will be printed on all new copies of the document.

SMC Briefing Note

Monthly briefings are now available to help members of the media and other interested groups understand the work and advice of the SMC. These are written in lay language and clinicians may find the brief explanation of reasons behind individual SMC decisions helpful in their discussions with patients. [Click here](#) for Jan 08 Briefing Note.

[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 and access to the NHS Tayside Drug and Therapeutics Committee website (www.nhstaysideadtc.scot.nhs.uk).