

TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

Tayside DTC Supplement No 77

March 2008

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

SMC Advice issued in February & March 2008

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Clobetasol propionate 0.05% shampoo (Etrivex®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Topical treatment of moderate scalp psoriasis in adults	Not recommended	SMC advice
Colesevelam hydrochloride (Cholestagel®) - <i>Non submission</i>	Hypercholesterolaemia with a statin or monotherapy	Not recommended	SMC advice
Daptomycin 350mg & 500mg vials (Cubicin®)	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> bacteraemia associated with right sided infective endocarditis or skin and soft tissue infections	Pending AMG decision	SMC advice SPC link
Diclofenac 75mg/2ml injection (Dyloject®)	Treatment or prevention of post-operative pain	HOSPITAL ONLY –pending specialist feedback	SMC advice
Follitropin alfa 150 IU/ lutropin alfa 75 IU for injection (Pergoveris®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Stimulation of follicular development in women with severe LH and FSH deficiency	HOSPITAL ONLY – Assisted Conception Unit	SMC advice SPC link
Fondaparinux sodium 2.5mg/0.5ml pre-filled syringe (Arixtra®)	ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)	HOSPITAL ONLY- pending specialist feedback	SMC advice SPC link
0.4% Glyceryl trinitrate rectal ointment (Rectogesic®) - <i>Third Resubmission</i>	Relief of pain associated with chronic anal fissure	Not recommended	SMC advice
Infliximab 100mg powder for infusion (Remicade®)	Severe, active Crohn's disease in paediatric patients	HOSPITAL ONLY – medical paediatrics	SMC advice SPC link
Levetiracetam 250, 500, 750 & 100mg tablets and 100mg/ml oral solution (Keppra®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Adjunctive therapy in partial onset seizures in children	GPs may prescribe under the direction of paediatrics	SMC advice SPC link
Levetiracetam 250, 500, 750 & 100mg tablets and 100mg/ml oral solution (Keppra®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Adjunctive therapy in Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy (JME)	GPs may prescribe under the direction of paediatrics or adult neurology. TAPG review June 08	SMC advice SPC link
Levetiracetam 250, 500, 750 & 100mg tablets and 100mg/ml oral solution (Keppra®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Adjunctive therapy in primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures (PGTC)	GPs may prescribe under the direction of paediatrics or adult neurology TAPG review June 08	SMC advice SPC link
Levetiracetam 250, 500, 750 & 100mg tablets and 100mg/ml oral solution (Keppra®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Monotherapy in partial onset seizures	GPs may prescribe under the direction of paediatrics or adult neurology. TAPG review June 08	SMC advice SPC link
Losartan 100mg/ hydrochlorothiazide 12.5mg tablet (Cozaar-Comp 100/12.5®)	Treatment of hypertension in patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled on hydrochlorothiazide or losartan monotherapy	Non-Formulary	SMC advice SPC link

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Mesalazine mr tablet 800mg (Asacol®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Moderate acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis	Formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Mesalazine mr tablet 800mg (Asacol®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Mild acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis	Formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Mesalazine mr tablet 800mg (Asacol®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Maintenance of remission in ulcerative colitis and Crohn's ileo-colitis	Formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Mesalazine 1200mg gastro-resistant, prolonged release tablet (Mezavant XL®) <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Induction of remission in mild to moderate, active ulcerative colitis and for maintenance of remission.	Non -Formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Pemetrexed (Alimta®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Monotherapy for treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer after prior chemotherapy	Not recommended	SMC advice
Salmeterol/fluticasone 50/500 micrograms inhaler (Seretide 500 Accuhaler®)	Symptomatic treatment of patients with COPD with FEV ₁ 50 to <60% predicted	Not recommended	SMC advice
Telbivudine 600mg film-coated tablets (Sebivo®)	Treatment of chronic hepatitis B	Pending AMG decision and local protocol for hepatitis B	SMC advice SPC link
Trabectedin (Yondelis®) - <i>Non submission</i>	Treatment of patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma	Not recommended	SMC advice
Valsartan 320mg tablet (Diovan®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Treatment of hypertension	Non-Formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Zoledronic acid, 5mg solution for infusion (Aclasta®)	Treatment of osteoporosis in post-menopausal women at increased risk of fractures.	HOSPITAL ONLY – medicine, care of the elderly	SMC advice SPC link

TAPG Update

	TAPG section	Drug(s)/topic	Changes
1.5	Treatment of inflammatory bowel disease	Mesalazine	Mesalazine mr tablet 800mg (Asacol®)* added.
2.1	Cardiac Glycosides	Digoxin	Dosage for less urgent digitalisation minor change. Expanding prescribing note including caution with drugs that increase digoxin concentrations, examples given.
2.2	Diuretics	Thiazide diuretics	Links to Management of Hypertension guideline and A/CD algorithm for hypertension inserted.
		Loop diuretics	Furosemide change to dosage instructions. Bumetanide- note added as 2 nd choice in confirmed heart failure and resistant fluid overload.
		Spironolactone	Note added that spironolactone may be used at Step 4 in A/CD algorithm for hypertension and link inserted.
		Eplerenone	Tayside recommendation and statement within TAPG updated in line with SMC recommendation.
2.3	Anti-arrhythmics	Permanent atrial fibrillation	Link to NHS Tayside protocol for treatment of atrial fibrillation inserted. Atenolol removed as beta-blocker listed for rate control in permanent atrial fibrillation.
		Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation/supraventricular tachycardias	Expanded prescribing note and link to SIGN No.94 inserted.

2.4	Beta-blockers	Bisoprolol	Highlighted as 1 st choice beta-blocker and dosage instructions added. Expanded prescribing note including statement that beta-blockers no longer preferred for routine initial treatment of uncomplicated hypertension and link to A/CD algorithm inserted. Link to SIGN guidelines No. 93, 94, 95 and 96 inserted.
2.5	Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system and alpha-adrenoceptor blocking drugs	Alpha-adrenoceptor blocking drugs	Doxazosin added to section, along with dosage instructions and link to A/CD algorithm for hypertension.
		ACE inhibitors	Link to A/CD algorithm inserted. Enalapril removed. Paragraph on diabetic nephropathy updated.
		Angiotensin – II receptor antagonists	Expanded prescribing note on indication for angiotensin – II receptor antagonists. Candesartan highlighted as 1 st choice sartan in heart failure (and hypertension) if ACE inhibitor not tolerated. Expanded prescribing note on diabetic nephropathy including irbesartan highlighted as 1 st choice sartan for diabetic renal disease if ACE inhibitor not tolerated.
2.6	Nitrates, calcium-channel blockers and potassium-channel activators	Nitrates	Dosage instructions for glyceryl trinitrate sublingual tablets added. Isosorbide mononitrate dosage instructions updated.
		Calcium-channel blockers	Expanded prescribing note and links to Management of Stable Angina and Management of Hypertension guidelines.
		Potassium-channel activators	Prescribing note added.
6.1	Drugs used in diabetes	Rosiglitazone	Updated warning for rosiglitazone from the MHRA. Contraindicated in patients with acute coronary syndrome & not recommended in pts with ischaemic heart disease or peripheral arterial disease.

* SMC accepted medicine

Eplerenone update

Local advice for the use of eplerenone for heart failure post-MI has been updated in line with SMC recommendations.

Eplerenone is now locally recommended under the direction of a cardiologist, in addition to standard therapy, to reduce the risk of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity post-MI in stable patients with left ventricular ejection fraction $\leq 40\%$ and clinical signs of heart failure.

Further information is available within [Section 2.2](#) of the Tayside Area Prescribing Guide.

Minor Ailments Scheme Formulary

The NHS Tayside Minor Ailments Scheme Formulary for use in community pharmacy has been updated by community pharmacists from Tayside. It can be found by linking from the Tayside Area Prescribing Guide website. [Click here](#)

Oramorph® liquid Unit Dose Vials (UDVs) discontinuation

All strengths of oramorph UDVs, 10mg/5ml, 30mg/5ml and 100mg/5ml are to be discontinued at the end of March 2008. Oramorph 10mg /5ml, 100ml, 300ml, 500ml and oramorph 100mg/5ml, 30ml, 120ml are still available.

[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).