

TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

Tayside DTC Supplement No 82

August/September 2008

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

SMC Advice issued in August/September 2008

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Aripiprazole 5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 30mg tablets; 10mg, 15mg orodispersible tablets; 1mg/ml oral solution (Abilify®)	Treatment of moderate to severe manic episodes in bipolar 1 disorder. Prevention of a new manic episode in patients who experienced predominantly manic episodes and whose manic episodes responded to aripiprazole treatment.	Not recommended	SMC advice
Alemtuzumab 30mg/ml for concentrate for solution for infusion (MabCampath®)	Treatment of patients with B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (B-LL) for whom fludarabine combination chemotherapy is not appropriate.	HOSPITAL ONLY Recommended for use within specialist treatment pathway	SMC advice SPC link
Buprenorphine transdermal patches 5, 10 and 20 microgram/ hour (7-day formulation) (BuTrans®) – <i>Resubmission</i>	Treatment of severe opioid responsive pain conditions which are not adequately responding to non-opioid analgesics	Not recommended	SMC advice
Clobetasol propionate 0.05% shampoo (Etrivex®) - <i>Resubmission</i>	Topical treatment of moderate scalp psoriasis in adults	Non-formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Ibritumomab tiuxetan 1.6mg/ml (Zevalin®) – <i>Non-submission</i>	Consolidation therapy after remission induction in previously untreated patients with follicular lymphoma	Not recommended	SMC advice
Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster (Versatis®) – <i>Resubmission</i>	Treatment of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia)	Non-formulary for this restricted indication	SMC advice SPC link
Micafungin 50mg and 100mg powder for solution for infusion (Mycamine®)	Treatment of invasive candidiasis in adults, elderly and children (including neonates)	Pending AMG decision	SMC advice SPC link
Melatonin 2mg prolonged-release tablets (Circadin®) - <i>Non-submission</i>	Monotherapy for the short-term treatment of primary insomnia characterized by poor quality of sleep in patients who are aged 55 or over	Not recommended	SMC advice
Pegylated interferon α 2b (ViraferonPeg®) powder for solution for injection in pre-filled pen in combination with ribavirin (Rebetol®) 200mg capsules	Treatment of adult patients with chronic hepatitis C who have failed previous treatment with interferon alfa (pegylated or nonpegylated) and ribavirin combination therapy or interferon alfa (pegylated or nonpegylated) monotherapy	Pending AMG decision	SMC advice SPC link

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Pemetrexed 500mg vial of powder for solution for intravenous infusion (Alimta®) - <i>Second resubmission</i>	Monotherapy for the second line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non –small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) other than predominantly squamous cell histology.	HOSPITAL ONLY Recommended for use within specialist treatment pathway	SMC advice SPC link The introduction of second line pemetrexed for this restricted group of patients will be accompanied with a review of the treatment protocol for NSCLC. This is required to provide clarity with regard to treatment options in both 1st and 2nd line therapy for all patients.
Rabbit anti-human thymocyte immunoglobulin, 25mg powder for solution for infusion (Thymoglobuline®)	Immunosuppression in solid organ transplantation Prevention of graft rejection in renal transplantation	Not recommended Other licensed indications – not recommended	SMC advice <i>Also licensed for the treatment of steroid-resistant graft rejection in renal transplantation and the prevention of graft rejection in heart transplantation</i>
Rituximab, 100mg and 500mg concentrate for solution for infusion (MabThera®)	Treatment of previously untreated patients with stage iii and iv follicular lymphoma in combination with chemotherapy	HOSPITAL ONLY Recommended for use within specialist treatment pathway	SMC advice SPC link
Ropinirole 2mg, 4mg or 8mg prolonged–release tablets (Requip® XL) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Treatment of idiopathic Parkinson's disease in patients already taking ropinirole immediate release tablets and in whom adequate symptomatic control has been established	Non –formulary	SMC advice SPC link <i>Section 4.9.1 of the TAPG will be reviewed in October 2008</i>
Temsirolimus (Torisel®) <i>Not commercially available</i>	First line treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma	SMC has asked that DTCs and local cancer networks make clinicians aware that temsirolimus has not been assessed by SMC	This is not currently being used in NHS Tayside
Teriparatide 750 micrograms/3ml solution for injection pre-filled pen (Forsteo®)	Treatment of osteoporosis in men at increased risk of fracture	Not recommended	SMC advice
Trabectedin 0.25, 1 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Yondelis®)	Treatment of patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma (STS) after failure of anthracyclines and ifosfamide or who are unsuited to receive these agents.	Not recommended	SMC advice <i>Efficacy data are based mainly on liposarcoma and leiomyosarcoma patients</i>
Venlafaxine (Efexor XL®) - <i>Non-submission</i>	Treatment of moderate to severe generalised social anxiety disorder/social phobia in adults	Not recommended	SMC advice

[Click here](#) for August 08 briefing note [Click here](#) for September 08 briefing note

TAPG Update

2.8	Anticoagulants	Parenteral anticoagulants	Link to NHS Tayside In-Patient Anticoagulant Prescription Sheet inserted providing further information on discharge of patients. Information on unfractionated heparin added and link to NHS Tayside Intravenous Unfractionated Heparin infusion protocol inserted. Click here
		Oral anticoagulants	Warfarin dose information amended to match NHS Tayside In-Patient Anticoagulant Prescription Sheet and link to this inserted. Information on warfarin dosing in patients with increased sensitivity added.
2	Anticoagulant advisory notes	Anticoagulant advisory notes	Removed as superseded by information from NHS Tayside In-Patient Anticoagulant Prescription Sheet linked to from section 2.8.
		Slow initiation of warfarin in the elderly	Unchanged but removed as superseded by information from NHS Tayside In-Patient Anticoagulant Prescription Sheet linked to from section 2.8.
	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	Emergency Drug Kits	List of contents of Emergency Drug Kits updated.
		Algorithms	Links to life support algorithms updated according to the Resuscitation Council (UK). Documents can be accessed via the Resuscitation intranet homepage .
4	Central Nervous System	Hypnotics and anxiolytics	Additional information on non-drug therapies added. Treatments for anxiety separated into acute and chronic anxiety. Links to NICE guidelines on Anxiety and Obsessive-compulsive disorder added.
		Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders	Link to NHS Tayside policy for the management of delirium in adult and older in-patients inserted. Antipsychotics added – Amisulpiride, Olanzapine, and Quetiapine. Procyclidine and orphenadrine removed – to be placed in section 4.9 when reviewed. Information on antimanic drugs expanded.
		Antidepressant drugs	Recommendation added on non-drug interventions for mild depression. Dosage information for other indications of SSRIs expanded. Sertraline added. Advice on SSRIs and risk of GI bleeding added. Information on dosulepin measures to reduce risk of fatal overdose added; see MHRA Drug Safety Update (Dec 2007) . Mirtazapine orodispersible tablets removed.
		Drugs for dementia	Link to SIGN guideline No.86 added.
4	Central Nervous System Guidelines – Psychiatric guidance notes	Rapid tranquillisation in the Management of acutely disturbed patients	Removed from Prescribing Guide. Review of policy and its remit awaited.
		Using Antidepressants in Primary Care Algorithm	Amendments to reflect use of generic SSRIs first line where drug therapy indicated. Minor amendments to advice in pregnancy and breastfeeding.
		Monitoring treatment with Antidepressants Algorithm	Minor amendments to flowchart to provide further clarity. Notes added on use of rating scales, screening tools and national targets. Further advice on switching antidepressants. Table of recognised minimum effective doses of antidepressants added.

Proposal to recommend restricted use of metformin modified release within Tayside

A proposal was discussed at the Drug and Therapeutics Committee to recommend restricted use of metformin modified release, when replacing the prescription of a more expensive drug such as a glitazone or a gliptin, after failure of standard release metformin. The DTC view was that, taking cognisance of the SMC advice on the product (not recommended), the proposal could not be supported. The recommendation from DTC was that the exceptional use procedure should be utilised for specific patients, where appropriate. The diabetology community should consider making representations to the manufacturer of the MR product to resubmit with the niche indication outlined above.

[Forthcoming SMC Advice](#)

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