

TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

Tayside DTC Supplement No 85

December 2008

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

SMC Advice issued in December 2008

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Aripiprazole solution for intramuscular injection (Abilify [®]) – <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	Rapid control of agitation and disturbed behaviours in patients with schizophrenia when oral therapy is not appropriate	HOSPITAL ONLY Specialist Mental Health Services	SMC advice SPC link
Atazanavir (Reyataz [®])	In treatment naïve HIV-1 infected adults in combination with other antiretrovirals	Pending AMG decision	SMC advice SPC link
Bivalirudin powder (Angiox [®])	Treatment of patients with acute coronary syndromes planned for urgent or early intervention	Pending specialist feedback	SMC advice SPC link
Flecainide acetate (Tambocor XL [®]) – <i>Abbreviated submission</i>	AV nodal reciprocating tachycardia, arrhythmias associated with Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome and similar conditions with accessory pathways	GPs may prescribe under the direction of a Cardiologist	SMC advice SPC link
Methylnaltrexone solution (Relistor [®])	Opioid-induced constipation in advanced illness patients who are receiving palliative care when response to usual laxative therapy has not been sufficient.	Non-formulary	SMC advice SPC link
Miconazole muco-adhesive buccal (Loramyc [®])	Oropharyngeal candidiasis (OPC) in immunocompromised patients	Not recommended	SMC advice
Rivaroxaban (Xarelto [®])	Prevention of VTE in adults undergoing elective hip or knee replacement surgery	Pending development of a local protocol	SMC advice SPC link

Updates from previous SMC advice

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Anidulafungin powder and solvent (Ecalta [®]) -	Treatment of invasive candidiasis in adult non-neutropenic patients	HOSPITAL ONLY Restricted to use on the advice of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Specialists	SMC advice SPC link To be used as 2 nd or 3 rd line therapy if caspofungin or other antifungals cannot be used
Micafungin 50mg and 100mg powder for solution for infusion (Mycamine [®])	Treatment of invasive candidiasis in adults, elderly and children (including neonates)	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 chronic hepatitis C in adult patients who have failed previous treatment with interferon alfa alone or together with ribavirin	HOSPITAL ONLY Hepatitis C specialists will review patients on a case by case basis	SMC advice SPC link
Dabigatran etexilate Pradaxa [®])	Primary prevention of VTE in adults who have undergone elective total hip or total knee replacement surgery	Not recommended	SMC advice

[Click here](#) for December SMC briefing note

TAPG Update

	TAPG section	Drug(s)/topic	Changes
4.6	Drugs used in nausea and vertigo	Anti-emetics	Prochlorperazine IM injection dose information added. Link to NHS Tayside guideline on prophylaxis and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting inserted. Link to Tayside palliative care guidelines inserted for management of nausea and vomiting in palliative care.
		Labyrinthine disorders	Prescribing note on betahistine added and link to CKS Clinical topic on Ménière's Disease .
4.7	Analgesics	Mild to moderate pain (step 2)	Tramadol hydrochloride capsules added as alternative to paracetamol and codeine in line with NHS Tayside (Acute) Pain Management Guidelines. Link to guidelines inserted click here .
		Moderate to severe pain (step 3)	Morphine Unit Dose Vials removed as discontinued, replaced with oral solution 10mg/5ml and 100mg/5ml. Removal of information on diamorphine shortage as resolved.
		Drugs for migraine	Minor changes to dose information and wording in line with BNF.
4.10	Drugs used in the management of substance dependence	Management of acute pain in substance misusers	Link to NHS Tayside pain management guidelines book inserted. Section 5 contains advice on management of acute pain in substance misusers in secondary care.
4	Pain guidance notes	Analgesic prescribing guidelines for the management of cancer pain	Link to SIGN guideline No.106 Control of pain in adults with cancer, November 2008 inserted. Minor changes to wording throughout. Opioid formulations and strengths available table updated.
		Approximate equivalent opioid doses	Added as a new section. Includes tables with approximate equivalent doses, formulations and strengths available for commonly prescribed opioids.
		Management of Acute Low Back Pain	Information on diagnostic triage added.
6.1	Drugs used in diabetes	Blood glucose meter testing strips	Link to Self Monitoring of blood glucose guidelines within Tayside Diabetes MCN handbook inserted.
		Oral antidiabetic drugs	Sitagliptin* and vildagliptin* added to formulary. Link to Tayside guidance on treatment with oral hypoglycaemic agents inserted.
		Other antidiabetic drugs	Prescribing note on exenatide* added with link to protocol .
6.2	Thyroid and antithyroid drugs	Hypothyroidism	Dose information for levothyroxine amended in line with BNF.
		Relief of thyrotoxic symptoms	Propranolol standard tablets removed and replaced with propranolol m/r capsules as better for patient compliance.
6.3	Corticosteroids	Dexamethasone	Oral solution and injection 4mg/ml added.
		Hydrocortisone	Note inserted regarding paraesthesia & pain after IV injection of the phosphate salt.

6.4	Sex hormones	HRT	Minor changes to wording on treatment risks. Removal of mention of Tayside Menopause guidelines as currently under review. Change to advice on maximum duration of cyclical HRT.
6.5	Pituitary hormones	Desmopressin	Addition of note regarding removal of primary nocturnal enuresis indication for desmopressin nasal spray.
6.6	Drugs affecting bone metabolism	Bisphosphonates	Prescribing note for zoledronic acid* added.
		Other drugs affecting bone metabolism	Prescribing notes for strontium ranelate*, raloxifene, teriparatide* and recombinant parathyroid hormone* added.

*SMC accepted

Fondaparinux Treatment Protocol - Anticoagulation of patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)

NHS Tayside Cardiology Services have developed a [Fondaparinux Treatment protocol](#) for the management of patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) that is now operational at both Perth Royal Infirmary and Ninewells.

[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).