

TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

Tayside DTC Supplement No 90

June 2009

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

SMC Advice issued in June 2009

| Medicine | Indication | Local recommendation category | Comments and useful links |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Aripiprazole 5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 30mg tablets; 10mg, 15mg orodispersible tablets; 1mg/ml oral solution (Abilify®) - <i>Resubmission</i> | Moderate to severe manic episodes in bipolar I disorder and to prevent a new manic episode in patients who experienced predominantly manic episodes and whose manic episodes responded to aripiprazole treatment | Not recommended | SMC advice |
| Pemetrexed 100mg, 500mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Alimta®) - <i>Resubmission</i> | First-line treatment in combination with cisplatin of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non- small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that does not affect squamous cells | Not recommended | SMC advice |
| Rituximab 100mg & 500mg concentrate for solution for infusion (MabThera®) | Restricted use for first-line treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) in combination with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide | Pending OHMMG decision | SMC advice SPC link |
| Sapropterin 100mg soluble tablets (Kuvan®) - <i>Non submission</i> | For the treatment of hyperphenylalaninaemia (HPA) in adult and paediatric patients with phenylketonuria (PKU) and for the treatment of hyperphenylalaninaemia (HPA) in adult and paediatric patients with tetrahydrobiopterin (BH4) deficiency | Not recommended | SMC advice |
| Tadalafil 2.5mg & 5mg film-coated tablets (Cialis®) - <i>Abbreviated submission</i> | For once daily administration in patients with erectile dysfunction responding to an on-demand regimen of tadalafil who anticipate frequent use (at least twice weekly) | Pending specialist feedback | SMC advice SPC link |

Click here for [June](#) Briefing Note

Use of Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) with clopidogrel - Amended advice (This supersedes the advice given in DTC supplement 89)

Current evidence suggests that there is a clinically significant interaction with clopidogrel and PPIs. This includes clopidogrel monotherapy as well as dual anti-platelet therapy. Pantoprazole can therefore no longer be recommended even if there is an absolute indication for a PPI. Ranitidine should be first choice if appropriate. For further information refer to [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#). Further guidance will be issued next month.

Interim recommendations:

- Review the need for a PPI in all patients who are also taking clopidogrel.
- Patients should not routinely be prescribed a PPI on dual anti-platelet therapy.
- Prescribe PPIs strictly in line with their licensed indications.
- Check that patients on clopidogrel are not buying over the counter omeprazole
- If there is a history of gastric ulceration or dyspepsia on combination antiplatelets then ranitidine 300mg twice daily (unlicensed indication) should be prescribed for the duration of dual antiplatelet therapy
- In complicated cases, for example, people with Barrett's oesophagus, seek advice from a cardiologist and gastroenterologist on an individual patient basis.

New advice on oral salicylate gels for those younger than 16 years

Topical oral gels containing salicylates e.g. Bonjela® and Bonjela® Cool Mint should not be used in patients younger than 16 years for pain associated with infant teething, orthodontic devices, cold sores or mouth ulcers. There are several alternatives available which contain a local anaesthetic / mild antiseptic such as Calgel® Teething Gel and Anbesol® Liquid which are listed in the Minor Ailment Scheme Local Formulary. For further advice refer to the [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#).

- Calgel® Teething Gel is indicated to relieve teething pain and soothe infants' gums in babies from the age of 3 months.
- Anbesol® Liquid is indicated for the temporary relief of pain caused by recurrent mouth ulcers, denture irritation and teething.

MAG meetings

Please note that from 16th June 2009, MAG meetings will be held every **two months**. Prescribers should wait for the local recommendation on SMC advice before prescribing any relevant medicine or product. This advice will be available every two months in the DTC supplement and on the [Tayside intranet](#).

The revised meeting dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

18 August, Morlich/Nevis Room, Mackenzie Building, Dundee
20 October, Morlich/Nevis Room, Mackenzie Building, Dundee
15 December, Morlich/Nevis Room, Mackenzie Building, Dundee

Any queries in relation to this sub-group should be directed, in the first instance, to the Support Officer, Morag Brown, extension 71373 or email moragbrown@nhs.net

[Forthcoming SMC Advice](#)

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