



Special points of interest for Primary Care

- Cranberry for UTI prophylaxis
- DTC supplement search function

SMC advice:

- Abiraterone (Zytiga®)
- Adalimumab (Humira®)
- Amifampridine (Firdapse®)
- Azilsartan (Edarbi®)
- Azithromycin (Azyter®)
- Eplerenone (Inspra®)
- Fidaxomicin (Difclir®)
- Golimumab (Simponi®)
- Mercaptopurine (Xaluprine®)
- Peginterferon alfa (ViraferonPeg®)
- Rifaximin (Xifaxanta®)
- Rufinamide (Inovelon®)
- Tadalafil (Adcirca®)
- Thiotepe (Tepadina®)



Specialist lists - progress

The [Specialist Lists - Timescales](#) has been updated on the Tayside Area Formulary Website. Over 60% of the specialist lists are now completed. Examples include: [Cardiology](#), [Chronic Pain](#), [Dementia](#), [Endocrinology](#), [ENT](#), [Gastroenterology](#), [Medicines for the Elderly](#), [Mental Health](#), [Oncology & Haematology protocols](#), [Palliative Care](#), [Renal](#), [Respiratory](#), [Rheumatology](#), [Stroke](#) and [Urology](#).

Click on any of the links above to view a specific specialist list. From the majority of specialist lists there is a direct link to the relevant formulary section at the left hand side of the table and a link to any protocols at the right hand side of the table.

Please remember:

H	May be prescribed by a Hospital Specialist
S	May be prescribed in General Practice under the direction of a specialist

For example, 'H' or 'S' medicines on the Cardiology Specialist list are approved for prescribing by or on the recommendation of a cardiologist or a member of their team.

Prescribers out with the speciality should not initiate prescribing of these specialist medicines without prior communication from the relevant specialist.

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Guidelines and Protocols

Guideline on the use of strong opioids in chronic non-malignant pain

The Pain Team has produced a [Guideline on the use of strong opioids in chronic non-malignant pain](#). This guideline provides additional information to support prescribers and complements information within the [Tayside Area Formulary](#) and [Chronic Pain specialist formulary list](#). Several electronic links to the guideline have been added to the relevant parts of the formulary.

Key parts of the guideline include:

- Information on an opioid trial
- Good practice points on strong opioid prescribing
- Choice of strong opioid
- Discontinuing strong opioids
- Strong opioid dose conversion charts



Drug Safety Updates

Please follow link - [Volume 5, Issue 12, July 2012](#)

Please follow link - [Volume 6, Issue 1, August 2012](#)



Prescribing Changes

Update on use of rivaroxaban in the treatment of DVT

Further to issue of [local advice](#) to support the use of rivaroxaban in the treatment of DVT in April 2012, detailed guidance is now available at these links: [NW Management of Suspected DVT](#) and [PRI DVT Treatment Guidelines](#). Discussions regarding the Angus DVT pathway are ongoing.

Note that the local advice for rivaroxaban in both AF and DVT indications will be reviewed by MAG in February 2013 and will include consideration of the following:

- treatment of DVT in intravenous drug users
- use of rivaroxaban prior to confirmed DVT
- treatment of recurrent DVT

Discontinuation of metolazone

Sanofi-Aventis have ceased to manufacture metolazone 5mg tablets. There are currently no licensed products available in the UK. However, there is an unlicensed formulation available which can be imported from Canada on a "named patient" basis. This contains a colouring agent which is not approved in the EU.

The British Society for Heart Failure has recommended changing patients currently on metolazone to bendroflumethiazide (up to 10mg daily is licensed for heart failure). [SIGN Guideline 95](#) states that "bendroflumethiazide 10mg and metolazone 10mg have been shown to be equally effective in establishing a diuresis when combined with loop diuretics." We would ask that where possible this advice is followed and the prescribing of metolazone is restricted to patients who have failed to respond to or cannot tolerate bendroflumethiazide.

Recommendations:

- Bendroflumethiazide should be the first choice treatment to add to loop diuretics for heart failure patients requiring additional diuresis.
- Metolazone should only be considered for patients who have not responded to or have not tolerated bendroflumethiazide.
- Patients currently receiving treatment with metolazone should be reviewed by their GP or the Heart Failure Team at their next routine appointment to determine whether a switch from metolazone to bendroflumethiazide is appropriate. GP's can seek advice from the Heart Failure Team if in doubt.
- If it is clinically necessary to continue with metolazone the medicine will be supplied on a "named patient" basis. The requesting consultant or GP must provide their name and GMC registration number prior to the supply of the medicine. This information must be on all prescriptions for metolazone sent to the Community or Hospital Pharmacy.

Cranberry capsules / tablets - UTI prophylaxis

NHS Tayside has agreed to allow cranberry products on prescription in the **following circumstances**.

- For adult females, of any age, who are not pregnant and do not have a catheter in situ **and**
- Are experiencing recurrent UTI (more than 2 in 6 months or 3 in one year)

Please note: The cranberry product supplied should be high strength i.e. **≥200mg cranberry extract (equivalent to 5000mg fresh cranberries)**.

Examples include Seven Seas Once-a-day concentrated high strength cranberry forte (Seven Seas Ltd), Cymalon® cranberry extract 200mg tablets (Actavis UK Ltd) and Natures Aid Cranberry 200mg tablets (Natures Aid Ltd).

Dose: one capsule daily with or after food. Review at six monthly intervals.

Patients taking warfarin should avoid taking cranberry products because of the potential interaction.

Cranberry juice remains blacklisted and cannot be prescribed. In addition, cranberry has not been shown to be effective for acute presentation of UTI and should not be used in these circumstances.

See [SIGN 88 - Management of suspected UTI in adults](#) for further information.



Tayside Prescriber - DTC supplement - search function

Past copies of a Tayside Prescriber DTC supplement can be found by a **google search** if you know the topic. For example if you enter - 'Tayside DTC supplement - rivaroxaban' into a google search - the relevant Tayside Prescriber DTC supplement will come up - i.e. [Tayside Prescriber DTC supplement 115 - March/April 2012](#) with local advice on the prescribing of rivaroxaban for both the treatment of AF and DVT.

For local advice on SMC accepted medicines it is still easier to use the [New Medicine search](#). A google search is useful if you are looking for a particular subject, for example safety issues / prescribing changes that you know are in a past issue of a DTC supplement.

The google search function will also work for past copies of Tayside Prescriber's if you know the topic. Topics in 2012 include 'Vitamin D - advice on groups at risk of deficiency'; 'Domiciliary Oxygen Service' and 'Citalopram & escitalopram: QT interval prolongation'.

SMC Advice issued in July and August 2012

SMC website: www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Abiraterone acetate 250mg tablets (Zytiga®) (764/12) - Resubmission	With prednisone or prednisolone for the treatment of metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) in adult men whose disease has progressed on or after a docetaxel-based chemotherapy regimen.	HOSPITAL ONLY (Oncology) Restricted to patients with good performance status (0-1) who have received only one prior chemotherapy regimen and whose disease has progressed after docetaxel. Supplied via a Patient Access Scheme (PAS).	SMC advice SPC link Prostate Cancer Protocol
Adalimumab (Humira®) Pre-filled Pen, Pre-filled Syringe and Vial (800/12) - Non-submission	Treatment of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis in adult patients who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy including corticosteroids and 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) or azathioprine (AZA), or who are intolerant to or have medical contraindications for such therapies.	Not recommended	SMC advice
Amifampridine 10mg tablet, as phosphate (Firdapse®) (660/10) - Full submission	Symptomatic treatment of Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome (LEMS) in adults.	Not recommended	SMC advice
Azilsartan medoxomil (Edarbi®) 20mg, 40 mg and 80mg tablets (803/12) - Non-submission	Treatment of essential hypertension in adults.	Not recommended	SMC advice
Azithromycin dihydrate (Azyter®) 15 mg/g, eye drops, solution in single-dose container (804/12) - Non-submission	Local antibacterial treatment of conjunctivitis caused by susceptible strains: - Purulent bacterial conjunctivitis, - Trachomatous conjunctivitis caused by Chlamydia trachomatis.	Not recommended	SMC advice
Eplerenone 25, 50mg film-coated tablets (Inspra®) (793/12) - Full submission	In addition to standard optimal therapy, to reduce the risk of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in adult patients with NYHA class II (chronic) heart failure and left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVEF ≤30%).	GPs may prescribe under the direction of Cardiology/Heart Failure Clinic or the Heart Failure Nurses Liaison Services. Cardiology Specialist List Restricted to patients with recent (within 6 months) hospitalisation for cardiovascular reasons.	SMC advice SPC link
Fidaxomicin 200mg film-coated tablets (Dificlor®) (791/12) - Full submission	Treatment of adults with <i>Clostridium difficile</i> infections (CDI) also known as <i>C. difficile</i> -associated diarrhoea (CDAD).	Non-formulary - pending protocol update	SMC advice

* 'pending' means that no local recommendation to support use is in place at the current time

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Golimumab, 50mg, solution for injection in pre-filled pen (auto-injector) or pre-filled syringe (Simponi®) (674/11) - Resubmission	Alone or in combination with methotrexate, for the treatment of active and progressive psoriatic arthritis in adult patients when the response to previous disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy has been inadequate.	HOSPITAL ONLY (Rheumatology Clinic) Rheumatology Specialist List Restricted to 50mg dose only and for use in patients whose disease has not responded to at least two DMARDs.	SMC advice SPC link
Mercaptopurine 20mg/mL oral suspension (Xaluprine®)(798/12) - Abbreviated submission	For the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in adults, adolescents and children.	HOSPITAL ONLY (Paediatrics)	SMC advice SPC link
Pegylated interferon alfa-2b 50, 80, 100, 120 or 150 micrograms powder for solution for injection in pre-filled pen (ViraferonPeg®) (794/12) - Abbreviated submission	In a combination regimen with ribavirin for the treatment of children 3 years of age and older and adolescents, who have chronic hepatitis C, not previously treated, without liver decompensation, and who are positive for HCV-RNA.	HOSPITAL ONLY (Paediatrics)	SMC advice SPC link
Rifaximin 200 mg film-coated tablets (Xifaxanta®)(808/12) - Non- submission	Treatment of travellers' diarrhoea that is not associated with any of: – Fever – Bloody diarrhoea – Eight or more unformed stools in the previous 24 h – Occult blood or leucocytes in the stool	Not recommended	SMC advice
Rufinamide 40mg/mL oral suspension (Inovelon®) (795/12) - Abbreviated submission	Adjunctive therapy in the treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) in patients 4 years of age or older.	HOSPITAL ONLY (Paediatric Neurology Clinic) Restricted to patients who have failed treatment with or are intolerant of other antiepileptic drugs and have difficulty swallowing tablets.	SMC advice SPC link
Tadalafil 20mg tablets (Adcirca®) (710/11) - Full submission	Treatment of adults with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) classified as World Health Organisation functional class (WHO-FC) II and III, to improve exercise capacity.	Restricted to initiation and supply by specialists working in Scottish Pulmonary Vascular Unit. Supplied via a Patient Access Scheme (PAS).	SMC advice SPC link
Thiotepa 15mg and 100mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Tepadina®) (790/12) - Full submission	In combination with other chemotherapy medicinal products: - with or without total body irradiation (TBI), as conditioning treatment prior to allogeneic or autologous haematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation (HPCT) in haematological diseases in adult and paediatric patients; - when high dose chemotherapy with HPCT support is appropriate for the treatment of solid tumours in adult and paediatric patients.	Not recommended	SMC advice

'Local processes exist to allow consideration of prescribing outwith SMC advice or outwith NHS Tayside formulary. Details are available in the [NHS Tayside Policy on the Prescribing of Medicines that are Non-formulary \(including Individual Patient Treatment Requests\)](#)'

Updates from previous SMC Advice

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Collagenase clostridium histolyticum 0.9mg powder and solvent for solution for injection (Xiapex®) (715/11) - Resubmission	Treatment of Dupuytren's contracture in adult patients with a palpable cord.	Non-formulary - absence of clinician demand	SMC advice
Dexamethasone 700 microgram intravitreal implant (Ozurdex®) (652/10) - 2nd Resubmission	Treatment of adult patients with macular oedema following either branch retinal vein occlusion or central retinal vein occlusion.	Non-formulary - absence of clinician demand	SMC advice

Updates from previous SMC Advice continued.....

Medicine	Indication	Local recommendation category	Comments and useful links
Erlotinib 25, 100 and 150mg film-coated tablets (Tarceva®) (749/11) - Full submission	First-line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) activating mutations.	HOSPITAL ONLY (Oncology) Supplied via a Patient Access Scheme (PAS).	SMC advice SPC link NSCLC Protocol
Exenatide, 5 micrograms & 10 micrograms, solution for injection, prefilled pen (Byetta®) (785/12) - Full submission	As adjunctive therapy to basal insulin with or without metformin and/or pioglitazone in adults with type 2 diabetes who have not achieved adequate glycaemic control with these agents.	GPs may prescribe under the direction of the Diabetes Clinic Endocrine specialist list	SMC advice SPC link Use of exenatide with basal-bolus insulin is covered in a separate protocol - click here
Pregabalin oral solution (Lyrica®) (765/12) - Abbreviated submission	Treatment of peripheral and central neuropathic pain in adults, as adjunctive therapy in adults with partial seizures with or without secondary generalization and the treatment of Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) in adults.	<u>Epilepsy/peripheral neuropathic pain:</u> Non-formulary - absence of clinician demand <u>Central neuropathic pain/GAD:</u> Not recommended	SMC advice
Tobramycin 28mg inhalation powder, hard capsules (TOBI Podhaler®) (783/12) - Full submission	Suppressive therapy of chronic pulmonary infection due to <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> in adults and children aged 6 years and older with cystic fibrosis.	GPs may prescribe under the direction of Adult/Paed CF Clinic. Respiratory specialist list Supplied via a Patient Access Scheme (PAS).	SMC advice SPC link Paed tobramycin shared care protocol Adult tobramycin shared care protocol



Tayside Area Formulary (TAF) Updates - Aug/Sep 2012

TAF Section	Drug(s)/topic	Changes
Specialist formulary lists and formulary development	Cardiology	Metolazone 2.5mg tablets [unlicensed - named patient] added and further indication for eplerenone▼ * added (see also page 3 of this supplement) to Cardiology specialist formulary list.
	Chronic pain	Links to Guideline on the use of Strong Opioids for Chronic Non-malignant Pain inserted.
	Dementia	Clomethiazole edislate syrup [unlicensed] added to Dementia specialist formulary list.
	Endocrinology	SMC accepted indication for twice daily exenatide▼ * added to Endocrinology specialist formulary list. See also page 4 of this supplement 'Updates from previous SMC advice'.
	Respiratory	Tobramycin 28mg inhalation powder, hard capsules (TOBI Podhaler®)* added to Respiratory specialist formulary list and link to updated Shared Care Agreement added.
	Rheumatology	Further indication for golimumab▼ * added (see also page 4 of this supplement) to Rheumatology specialist formulary list.
	Urology	Note that due to supply problems alternatives (possibly unlicensed preparations) may require to be used for BCG (bacillus calmette-guérin) bladder instillation (ImmuCyst®).
2.2	Metolazone	Metolazone [unlicensed] (2.5mg tablets- named patient) added to formulary and Cardiology specialist formulary list for add on therapy to a loop diuretic in heart failure patients suffering from dyspnoea and/or oedema where there has been an inadequate response to bendroflumethiazide or where bendroflumethiazide has not been tolerated. Further indication for eplerenone▼ * added (see also page 3 of this supplement).
2.8	Oral anticoagulants	Links to local guidance on the treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT): Ninewells Acute Medicine Unit (AMU) Management of suspected DVT and Perth Royal Infirmary (PRI) DVT Treatment Guideline inserted. Note that dronedarone* is contraindicated with dabigatran* inserted.

* = SMC accepted medicine

TAF Updates - Aug/Sep 2012 continued.....

TAF Section	Drug(s)/topic	Changes
2 - Cardiovascular system guidelines	Treatment of confirmed heart failure	<i>Eplerenone▼ * added to therapeutic notes - can be considered in addition to standard optimal therapy in NYHA class II (chronic) heart failure and left ventricular systolic dysfunction (LVEF ≤ 30%) in patients with a recent (within 6 months) hospitalisation for a cardiovascular reason. (Careful monitoring of blood chemistry is mandatory).</i>
4.1	Hypnotics and anxiolytics	<i>Clomethiazole edislate syrup [unlicensed] added to formulary and dementia specialist formulary list for severe insomnia in the elderly (short-term use).</i>
4.7	Analgesics	<i>Link to Guideline on the use of Strong Opioids for Chronic Non-malignant Pain inserted.</i>
4.7.3	Neuropathic Pain	<i>A link to Guideline on the use of Strong Opioids for Chronic Non-malignant Pain inserted.</i>
4 - CNS Guidelines - Pain Guidance Notes	Management of Neuropathic Pain	<i>A link to Guideline on the use of Strong Opioids for Chronic Non-malignant Pain inserted.</i>
6.1	Other antidiabetic drugs	<i>SMC accepted indication for twice daily exenatide▼ * added to formulary and Endocrinology specialist formulary list. See also page 4 of this supplement 'Updates from previous SMC advice'.</i>
10.1	Golimumab	<i>Further indication for golimumab▼ * added to formulary and Rheumatology specialist formulary list. See also page 4 of this supplement 'SMC advice issued in July and August 2012'.</i>

* = SMC accepted medicine

SMC Briefing Notes:

[Click here](#) for July Briefing Note

[Click here](#) for August Briefing Note

Forthcoming SMC Advice

This bulletin is produced by the Medicines Advisory Group (MAG), which is a sub-group of the NHS Tayside Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

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