NHS TAYSIDE

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PERINDOPRIL – WITHDRAWAL OF BRANDED VERSIONS

Perindopril erbumine (=*tert*-butylamine) is available as a generic medicine and was added to the Drug Tariff in April 2008. These generic versions of perindopril meet MHRA requirements for bioequivalence and can be used safely in patients previously taking Coversyl®.

Servier has just announced that it is withdrawing their branded versions of perindopril erbumine (Coversyl ™) and replacing them with an arginine salt (Coversyl Arginine® and Coversyl Arginine plus®). These new products were launched on the 1st April and Coversyl® products will be withdrawn once stocks are exhausted. **SMC advice on this product is due in June 2008**.

It is important to note that the new products come in strengths and packaging that are different from current formulations:

Coversyl®		**Coversyl arginine®**
perindopril erbumine **2mg**	=	perindopril arginine **2.5mg**
perindopril erbumine **4mg**	=	perindopril arginine **5mg**
perindopril erbumine **8mg**	=	perindopril arginine **10mg**

To minimise risk and ensure that patient care is not compromised, MAG advises practices to consider the following:

- Change any patients who are currently being prescribed Coversyl® as the branded product to the generic version of perindopril erbumine to maintain the same dose and formulation
- Change any patients currently being prescribed Coversyl Plus®***** (perindopril 4mg with indapamide 1.25mg) to generic perindopril 4mg plus an appropriate diuretic as separate components
- Prescriptions for generic perindopril (as the erbumine salt) are not affected.

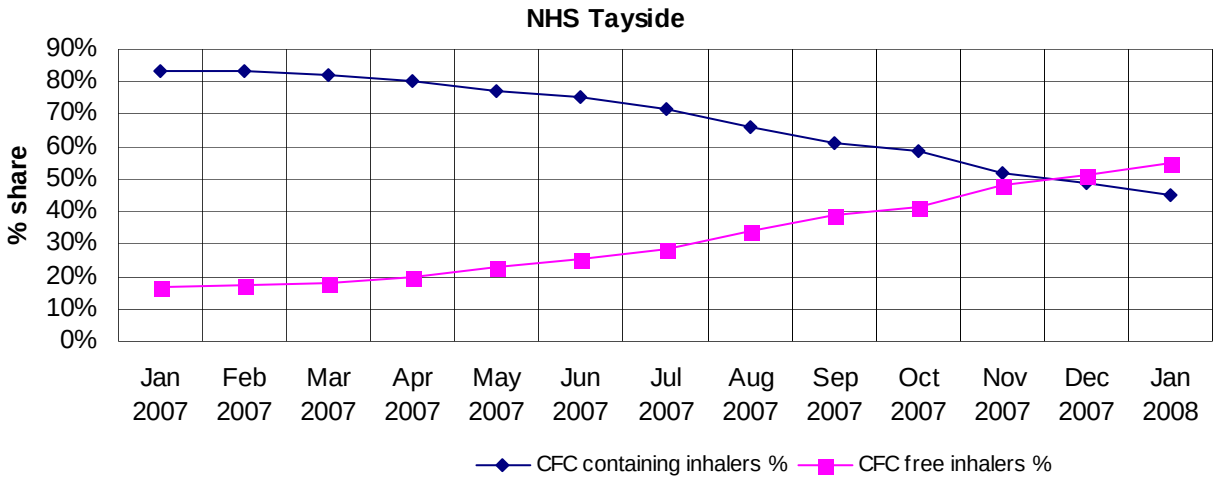
**Not on the Tayside Area Prescribing Guide*

See over/

Switching to CFC–free beclometasone inhalers – An Update

Our previous guidance on the switch to CFC-free beclometasone inhalers was outlined in a DTC supplement in March last year.

Thanks to practices throughout Tayside implementing this guidance, there has been a steady rise in the prescribing of these inhalers. The latest figures show that just over 50% of prescriptions have now been issued for beclometasone CFC-free inhalers.



However a few issues need to be highlighted:

- CFC-beclometasone inhalers have now been removed from the Tayside Area Prescribing Guide
- Stocks of these CFC inhalers will not last indefinitely with difficulties in supply predicted for early 2009
- The price of generic CFC-beclometasone inhalers has increased in the April Drug Tariff. They are now more expensive than the branded CFC-free inhalers (*see cost comparisons below*).

Cost comparisons:	
Generic beclometasone CFC inhaler 100 micrograms per dose	£11.42 for 200 doses
QVAR® 50 micrograms per dose	£7.87 for 200 doses
Clenil Modulite® 100 micrograms per dose	£7.72 for 200 doses

Our advice is that practices should plan to change any remaining patients in the very near future to ensure continuity of care.

This change is also being supported by secondary care. The key messages are:

- Ensure that all new patients are prescribed a branded CFC-free beclometasone inhaler
- Review existing patients and where appropriate, also change them to a branded CFC-free beclometasone inhaler.
- Qvar® and Clenil Modulite® are not interchangable

For further information and advice, re-visit the guidance issued last year in the Tayside Prescriber (issue 94) in March 2007

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