Quetiapine Tablets Supply Disruption – Clinical Guidance

On the 11th of June 2024 the Scottish Government Care issued a Medicines Supply Alert Notice (MSAN) highlighting the shortages of quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg immediate release tablets. This supply disruption is expected to last until the end of August 2024.

Supplies of the 25mg and 100mg tablets remain available along with all strengths of the modified release preparations. Manufacturers have advised that the supply chains of these preparations can withstand a small increase in demand.

Guidance for Teams to support affected patients

- Clinicians should not initiate new patients on standard release quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg tablets until the supply issues resolve.

- Where patients have insufficient supply of quetiapine 150mg, 200mg, 300mg tablets to last until the resupply date, clinicians should consider the following options in a stepwise approach;

    1. Use of the quetiapine 25mg or 100mg tablets, using the largest strength tablet(s) available to provide the patient with the required dose.
    2. Use of quetiapine XL prolonged-release tablets, adjusting the current total daily dose to a once daily dose e.g. if current dose is 150mg twice a day switch to quetiapine XL 300mg daily. Patients should be clearly counselled on the change to formulation and dosing regimen, and to take the dose without food.
    3. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options.

    - It should be noted that the use of the modified release preparations are significantly more expensive than the immediate release preparations and therefore patients should be converted back to their original dose with the immediate release preparation as soon as practical once the supply disruption has resolved.

    - Quetiapine is used at low doses in adults as a pharmacological option for anxiety and in some cases insomnia. Services across Tayside should consider reviewing these patients and stopping where possible to support the conservation of the available stock.

Prepared By: David Morrison - Head of Clinical Pharmacy, Mental Health and Substance Use
Heather Axford – Lead Clinical Pharmacist, Mental Health and Substance Use
Approved by: Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Medicines Management Group
Prepared: June 2024