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Bite Size Prescribing News

Jan 2018



Rotherham
Clinical Commissioning Group

New warning for Diltiazem and Antiplatelets

Following a recent update highlighting that diltiazem has been shown to inhibit platelet aggregation; the SPC now advises that *concomitant administration with acetylsalicylates (e.g. aspirin) should be undertaken with caution.*

Probiotics

Due to the EU regulations stating that probiotics cannot make any medical claims, and NHS England classifying them as items of low clinical effectiveness, Rotherham CCG has taken the decision to classify all probiotics as **Red** on the traffic light system for new initiations. Any requests for probiotics on prescription should be referred back to the requesting clinician.

NICE Guidance/Updates of Note

NG84 - Sore throat (acute) - antimicrobial prescribing: This guideline sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for acute sore throat. It aims to limit antibiotic use and reduce antimicrobial resistance. A localised version of this guideline will be available on the CCG internet site soon.

NG82 - Age-related macular degeneration: This guideline covers diagnosing and managing age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in adults. It aims to improve the speed at which people are diagnosed and treated to prevent loss of sight. On the issue of the use of antioxidant supplementation, this guidance suggests that there isn't currently enough robust evidence to establish the benefits of supplementation compared to a normal diet.

Shortage of supply of Bactroban Nasal Ointment

The Department of Health have circulated an email alerting NHS bodies to problems with supplies of bactroban nasal ointment. GSK are unable to confirm the exact resupply date but have advised that new stock should be available by the end of first quarter of 2018.

The NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service has published a brief shortages memo, which provides advice on clinical alternatives such as Naseptin nasal cream.

Further information can be found here (<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-bactroban-mupirocin-nasal-ointment>)

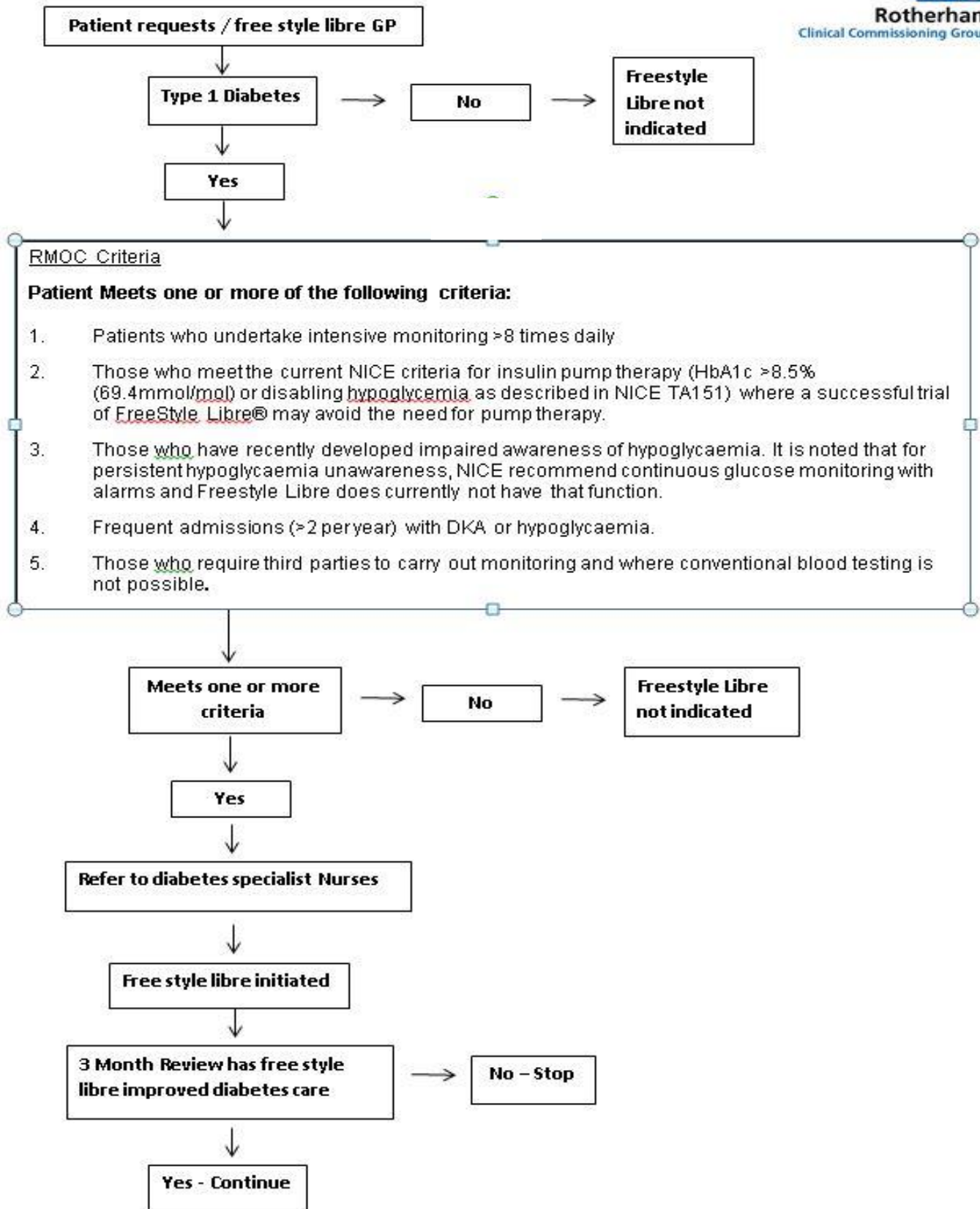
Government Consultation on availability of gluten-free foods on NHS prescription

This consultation has now concluded. Following its consultation on the availability of gluten-free foods on NHS prescription, the government has decided to **restrict gluten-free prescribing to bread and mixes only**. The majority of consultation responses were in favour of this.

As all gluten-free prescribing is done by the Rotherham Nutrition and Dietetic Service, the outcome of this consultation is for information only should have no effect on GP prescribing.

Freestyle-Libre update

If a clinician is asked for a Freestyle-Libre device, the flowchart below should be followed in the first instance:



The Diabetic specialist nurses (DSN's) will issue the Libre device and sensors for the first month. GP's will then continue to prescribe the sensors until the DSN review the patient and inform the GP to either stop or continue to prescribe. Further information can be found in the Top Tips section of the CCG internet site.