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Bite Size Prescribing News

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Rotherham
Clinical Commissioning Group

Docosate Capsules and Liquid Out of Stock – Update

As previously mentioned in November 2020 Bitesize, Docusate capsules and oral liquid remain out of stock. Unfortunately, supply problems will now likely continue until April 2021. Advice remains the same as reported in the November Bitesize, with additional help found in the CCG laxative guidelines:

<http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/Downloads/Top%20Tips%20and%20Therapeutic%20Guidelines/Therapeutic%20guidelines/Laxative%20Guidelines%20update%20Nov%202015.pdf>

MHRA - Strengthened warnings for Erythromycin: caution required due to cardiac risks (QT interval prolongation) and drug interaction with Rivaroxaban.

A European review of safety data has highlighted an increased risk of cardiotoxicity with macrolide antibiotics, particularly Erythromycin, in terms of short-term risks of adverse cardiac outcomes. On the basis of these data, the product information for Erythromycin will be updated in line with that for Clarithromycin to include warnings regarding the risk of QT interval prolongation and fatal arrhythmia. A new contraindication has been added for those with risk factors for QT interval prolongation and arrhythmia, including for patients with a history of QT interval prolongation or ventricular arrhythmia and patients with electrolyte disturbances.

The drug safety update also highlighted the known interaction of macrolides such as Erythromycin with direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs). Erythromycin and Clarithromycin inhibit CYP3A4 and P-gp and can lead to an increase in the maximum blood concentration of Rivaroxaban. For Edoxaban, the product information recommends a reduced dose of 30mg a day, and for Dabigatran and Apixaban the product information states that concomitant administration is expected to result in increased plasma concentrations.

All patients prescribed DOACs, including those also on macrolides, should be informed of the signs and symptoms of bleeding and be advised to seek medical advice should they occur

Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/erythromycin-caution-required-due-to-cardiac-risks-qt-interval-prolongation-drug-interaction-with-rivaroxaban>

Butec (buprenorphine) 15microgram/hour patches (7-day) Out of stock

Butec 15microgram/hour patches are currently out of stock, but should be back in stock w/c 18th January. Prescribers are asked to review patients on Butec 15microgram/hour patches to assess on-going need and if appropriate:

1st-line:

Switch patients to a single alternative buprenorphine 15microgram/hour patch (7-day). This should be prescribed by brand. Alternative brands are-Sevodyne®, Reletrans® and Butrans®. Prescribers can liaise with community pharmacist in order to determine which brand is obtainable.

2nd-line: only if it is not appropriate to switch to any of the three alternative brands.

Consider use of both a Butec® 5 microgram/hour (7-day) and a Butec® 10microgram/hour patch (7-day) to deliver a total dose of 15microgram/hour as a last line option. Prescribers need to account for patient safety implications due to the high risk of dosing errors with multiple patches and counsel patients on the need to apply and remove two patches of different strengths.

RDaSH Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) are now live with EPS prescribing.

With the support of CCG MMT, RDaSH Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) are now live with EPS prescribing. Over the coming weeks RDaSH teams (eg Adult ADHD, CAMHS, LD, Memory Clinic etc) will undertake training and start to prescribe via EPS as default, replacing traditional handwritten paper pad scripts. EPS will support remote working while ensuring patients do not have a delay in receiving their CMHS medication (without the need for GP practices to be requested to prescribe)

Polite reminder to all colleagues involved in SystemOne (S1) prescribing (requesting/issuing/signing). Medication visible in S1 is medication recorded by any organisation using S1 and not just the GP practice. Extra care is required as though medication may be visible in your GP practices S1 record (now including RDaSH CMHS prescribing) it may be being prescribed by another organisation.

Medicines Management Christmas Quiz 2020

Question 1

What temperature should the Pfizer / BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 be kept at during its frozen state?

- a) -40°C to -60°C
- b) -60°C to -80°C
- c) -80°C to -100°C

Question 2

Which oil is responsible for the contact dermatitis caused by poison ivy?

- a) Foraha oil
- b) Pracaxi oil
- c) Urushiol oil

Question 3

Which blood clotting factor is deficient in a patient presenting with Christmas disease?

- a) Factor IIX
- b) Factor IX
- c) Factor X

Question 4

Which brand of diltiazem was discontinued earlier this year?

- a) Slozem
- b) Adizem
- c) Tildiem

Question 5

What was the average reduction in antibiotic prescription issues in the April -May 2020 period compared to the same period last year for Rotherham CCG?

- a) 10%
- b) 20%
- c) 30%

Answers:
1) b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) b

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us in the Medicines Management Team