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Bite Size Prescribing News

March 2021



Rotherham
Clinical Commissioning Group

Current known supply issues of note

H2-antagonists (cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine).

- Some suppliers of H2 antagonists are stating that they may be out of stock until June 2021

Enalapril 5mg tablets are out of stock until the end of April 2021.

- Enalapril 10mg tablets remain available and can support an uplift in demand.
- Enalapril 2.5mg tablets remain available **but cannot** support an uplift in demand.

Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets are out of stock until early May 2021.

- Irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 300mg/25mg tablets are unscored oval shaped tablets and **not suitable for halving**.
- Of the separate components, only irbesartan 150mg tablets are available (hydrochlorothiazide tablets discontinued many years ago) and can support an uplift in demand.
- An alternative thiazide diuretic, bendroflumethiazide 2.5mg, is available and can support an uplift in demand.
- A switch to separate components but using bendroflumethiazide in place of hydrochlorothiazide, is an option for patients who run out of irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide 150mg/12.5mg tablets.

Oral Contraceptive tablets (various brands).

Product affected	Ingredients	Estimated resupply	Management Advice
Dianette®	Ethinylestradiol 35 microgram/ Cyproterone 2 mg tablets	w/c 26 April 2021	Equivalent generic alternatives with the same composition remain available
Femodette®	Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets	w/c 03 May 2021	Equivalent alternatives with the same composition remain available

As with all out of stock medication, some pharmacies may hold more stock than others, therefore checking availability at more than one pharmacy may be beneficial.

Further follow-up following Clozapine incident

We have recently had a clozapine incident where the dose of clozapine recorded on the patient's summary care record was the initial loading dose, not the patients current dose. This resulted in the higher loading dose being prescribed whilst the patient was an inpatient at TRFT.

As mentioned in previous Bitesize's, we recommend the recording of clozapine using the "CCG Recording Non Practice Drugs" guidance accessible via

<http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/CCG%20Recording%20Non%20Practice%20Drugs%20Final.pdf>. It is worth noting however, blood monitoring of clozapine is performed monthly as part of the clozapine patient monitoring service (RDASH Clozapine Clinic) resulting in possible, and in some cases frequent, dose adjustments. Thus the dose should be recorded as per the example screenshot below "issued/monitored by RDASH CMHS – confirm dose with Clozapine Clinic"

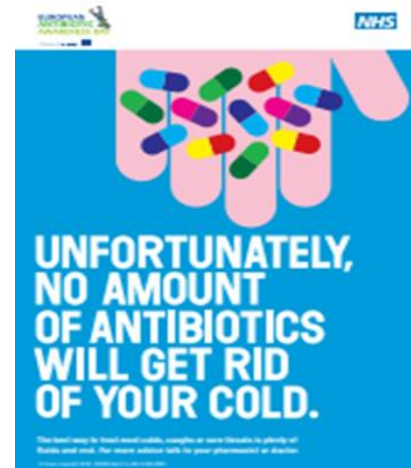
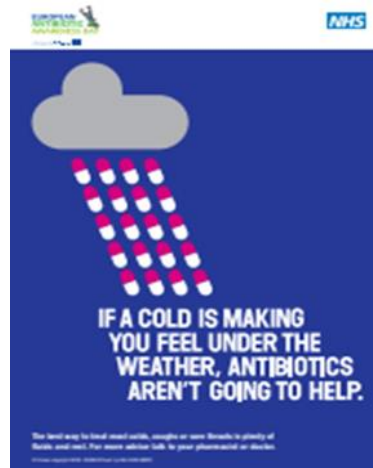
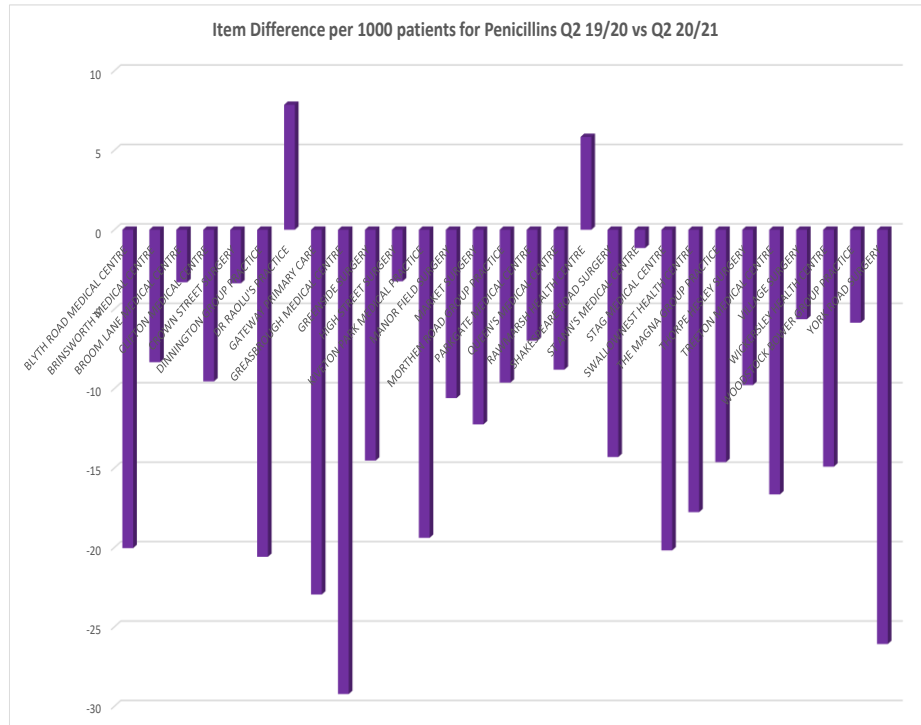
08 Oct 2020	28 tablet - Take One tablet a day Clozapine 100mg tablets 1 tablet - HOSPITAL ONLY - do not issue / dispense Additional Script Notes: issued/monitored by RDASH CMHS - confirm dose with Clozapine Clinic Hospital prescription (XaIng)	08 Oct 2020	2 / 1 (2)	
09 Mar 2021	Hyoscine hydrobromide 300microgram tablets	08 Feb 2021,	09 Sep 2021	0 / 6 (53)

Prescribing Patterns

The prescribing patterns for the following antibiotic groups were analysed:

- Penicillins
- Cephalosporins
- Tetracyclines
- Clindamycin
- Macrolides
- Sulfonamides
- Antituberculosis Drugs
- Metronidazole
- Drugs for UTIs
- Quinolones
- Antileprotic drugs
- Aminoglycosides

When analysing the different antibiotic groups, it has been found that the largest reduction in prescribing in Rotherham CCG was in the Penicillin Group.



It is important that this prescribing pattern is continued and that antibiotic prescribing does not increase to the levels seen pre-pandemic.

Prescribers should continue to educate patients, utilising leaflets (Treat Your Infection) and other resources on the TARGET website during consultations:

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/resources/toolkits/amr/target-antibiotics-toolkit/-/media/12B04B8E4D8A466A9D8AB8A4D6E75DDF.ashx>