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# Bite Size Prescribing News December 2018



Rotherham  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## Oral lidocaine-containing products for infant teething now only to be available under the supervision of a pharmacist.

Oral lidocaine-containing products for infant teething (for example Bonjela Teething Gel or Anbesol Teething Gel) are only to be available under the supervision of a pharmacist so that parents and caregivers can receive guidance about managing infant teething symptoms. Non-medicinal options such as a teething ring or massaging the gum should be the first line for relieving infant teething symptoms, and lidocaine-containing products should only be used when simple measures have failed to provide sufficient relief.

Further information can be found on the MHRA website here: <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/oral-lidocaine-containing-products-for-infant-teething-only-to-be-available-under-the-supervision-of-a-pharmacist>

## Emollients: new information about risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients

Warnings about the risk of severe and fatal burns are being extended to all paraffin-based emollients regardless of paraffin concentration. Data suggest there is also a risk for paraffin-free emollients. Advise patients who use these products not to smoke or go near naked flames, and warn about the easy ignition of clothing, bedding, dressings and other fabric that have dried residue of an emollient product on them.

Further information can be found here:

<http://news1.mhradrugsafety.org.uk/NLI/LE35.ashx?a=2CC85705531E779E39013736735CFBB2E2476A6609AF4CC806311C85475908EA&b=5D6CBCF6DC72C111738F78E9F23B76A6>

## FDA warns about new impulse-control problems associated with aripiprazole (Abilify, Abilify Maintena, Aristada)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning that compulsive or uncontrollable urges to gamble, binge eat, shop, and have sex have been reported with the use of the antipsychotic drug aripiprazole. These uncontrollable urges were reported to have stopped when the medicine was discontinued or the dose was reduced. These impulse-control problems are rare, but they may result in harm to the patient and others if not recognized. Health care professionals are asked to make patients and caregivers aware of the risk of these uncontrollable urges when prescribing aripiprazole, and specifically ask patients about any new or increasing urges while they are being treated with aripiprazole.

## Stock shortages of generic lbandronic acid 50mg tablets

There is currently a stock shortage of generic lbandronic acid 50mg tablets (£12.34 for 28 tablets). The 50mg dose is licenced for prevention of skeletal events (pathological fractures, bone complications requiring radiotherapy or surgery) in patients with breast cancer and bone metastases. Branded lbandronic acid 50mg (Bondronat – 28 tablets £183.69) is available at the moment, however stocks of this are now running low.

Whilst we are still waiting for clarification from our cancer specialist services as to which alternative would be best if all stocks of both the generic and branded lbandronic acid are depleted, clinicians are asked to reassure patients that lbandronic acid is a preventative treatment and that being without this medication for a few weeks should not be detrimental to their overall condition.

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

# Medicines Management Christmas Quiz 2018

## Question 1

How many different types of ocular lubricant were prescribed in Rotherham over the last 12 months?

- a) 1 - 49
- b) 50 - 99
- c) 100 - 150

## Question 2

How many million reasons are there to justify buying over the counter medication and not prescribing it?

- a) 569 million
- b) 965 million
- c) 659 million

## Question 3

To what depth does the analgesic effect of the lidocaine medicated plaster penetrate into the body from the skin according to its manufacturer's info?

- a) Epidermis and Dermis layers of the skin only
- b) Epidermis to Subcutaneous layer only
- c) Epidermis through to muscle

## Question 4

If Santa requests paracetamol for his chronic back pain developed by years of carrying a heavy sack, should you:

- a) Prescribe him some and wish him a very merry Christmas
- b) Tell him to buy his own as he's passing over the shops
- c) Tell him that as a temporary resident you can only provide immediate and necessary treatment, so he'll have to get his regular medication from the North Pole the next day.

## Question 5

Which angiotensin II receptor antagonist is NOT licensed for use in heart failure?

- a) Losartan
- b) Candesartan
- c) Irbesartan

## Question 6

Fluoxetine is used to treat aggression in which of these animals:

- a) Hamster
- b) Dog
- c) Reindeer

## Question 7

Thalidomide has been found to have benefit in which condition?

- a) Leprosy
- b) Obesity
- c) Impotence