Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee

September 2023 Bulletin

Contents

New submissions:

Dapagliflozin for Heart Failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction	**AMBER 2**	• As per NICE TA 902. • An option for treating symptomatic chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction in adults. • Dosing of dapagliflozin for this indication is in line with other indications.
Rimegepant for preventing migraine in adults	**RED**	• As per NICE TA906. • Approved with an interim Red classification whilst financial and commissioning implications are assessed.
Semaglutide (Wegovy®) for weight management	**GREY**	• As per NICE TA875 • Work is ongoing locally to plan for the implementation of NICE TA875. Semaglutide for weight loss will only be available through a specialist weight management service to patients that meet the eligibility criteria outlined by NICE.

News from the APC - updated/new documents:

⇒ **Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) in Adults Guideline** and **Quick Reference Guide**

⇒ Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) in Adults — **Care Home Request Form**

⇒ **Auto-Immune Hepatitis Shared Care Protocol**

⇒ **Testosterone Information Sheet**

⇒ **Supporting guideline for the prescribing of nebulised colistimethate**

⇒ **Unlicensed 'Specials' - Alternatives and options for Prescribing**

⇒ **Principles for Specifying Brand Names on the Joint Formulary**

Antimicrobial Guidelines

⇒ **Meningitis**
⇒ **Vaginal Candidiasis**

Horizon scanning, formulary amendments and traffic light changes

AMBER 2

♦ Hydralazine, Methyldopa, moxonidine and minoxidil for hypertension - classified as AMBER 2 for this indication.
♦ Testavan® (testosterone) 20 mg/g Transdermal gel– additional option for male hypogonadism in adults alongside Testogel® pump and Tostran®. Most cost effective option, but presentation contains an excess of non– recyclable plastic so may be less preferred from a sustainability perspective.

AMBER 3

♦ Trurapi®, Admelog®, Semglee® , Abasaglar® and Lantus® insulins have been changed from AMBER 2 to AMBER 3 to allow easier initiation and switches to biosimilar insulins in primary care (see below for further details).

GREEN

♦ Venlafaxine doses above 300mg changed from AMBER 2 to GREEN in line with updated licensing.

GREY - no formal assessment

♦ Desmopressin acetate (Demovo®) 360 micrograms/mL oral solution
♦ Lidocaine and tetracaine (Pliaglis®) cream.
♦ Cytisinicline (Belnifrem, Tabex® tablet.
♦ Drospirenone (Slynd®) tablet.
♦ Budesonide, formoterol fumarate dihydrate, (GoResp Digihaler Inhalation Powder®)

Feature of the month

Biosimilar insulin reminder

Consider **Trurapi**® as first choice **insulin aspart** for new patients due to cost-effectiveness. Discuss a potential switch to Trurapi® (biosimilar) with existing patients on Novorapid® where appropriate.
Consider **Admelog**® as first choice **insulin lispro** for new patients due to cost-effectiveness. Discuss a potential switch to Admelog® (biosimilar) with existing patients on Humalog® where appropriate.
Consider **Semglee**® as first line **insulin glargine** product for new patients being initiated on insulin glargine. Discuss a potential switch to Semglee® with existing patients on insulin glargine where appropriate.

Biological insulins must be prescribed by brand name to avoid inadvertent switching. Ensure all prescriptions and communications specify brand.
For further information see our [Biosimilar FAQs](#)

ADHD medicines shortages

A [National Patient Safety Alert](#) has been issued warning of an impending shortage of specific medicines for Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD).
Resources for clinicians and patients can be [found here](#)