

Prescribing Update

April 2021 Newsletter


Basildon and Brentwood
Clinical Commissioning Group


Thurrock
Clinical Commissioning Group

Liraglutide for managing overweight and obesity - Red List

- Liraglutide (Saxenda) is recommended as an option for managing overweight and obesity in adults in accordance with the NICE technology appraisal recommendations (NICE TA664).
- Liraglutide (Saxenda) is in the Red List - it is recommended for restricted prescribing by specialist multidisciplinary tier 3 weight management service only.
- It is **not recommended for primary care prescribing**.
- Primary care continuation of liraglutide (Saxenda) following private initiation is **not recommended**.
- All GLP-1 receptor analogue products are not recommended for primary care prescribing for weight management.

Reminder - Steroid Emergency Card to support early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults

A NHS England and NHS Improvement national patient safety alert issued in August 2020 recommended the use of a new Steroid Emergency Card to support the early recognition and treatment of adrenal crisis in adults. This specified a number of actions that organisations need to implement by no later than 13th May 2021.

The alert requires providers to ensure that all eligible patients are issued with a Steroid Emergency Card, and to put processes in place to check if a patient has a Steroid Emergency Card ahead of any emergency treatment, elective surgery, or other invasive procedures.

Actions by 13th May 2021: Review processes, policies and clinical systems to ensure that all eligible patients are issued a Steroid Emergency Card when initiating prescriptions for steroids, undertaking scheduled reviews or authorising repeat prescriptions.

To support implementation of the national patient safety alert, the Society for Endocrinology, the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS), and the British Association of Dermatology (BAD) have produced more detailed guidance on issuing the Steroid Emergency Card: https://www.endocrinology.org/media/4030/spssfe_supporting_sec_final_hls-19022021-2-1.pdf

PrescQIPP have also produced resources to support implementation of the national patient safety alert: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/webkits/hot-topics/>

The PrescQIPP resources include clinical system searches for SystemOne and EMIS for the identification and review of patients, and a patient guide. PrescQIPP registration and login details are required to access these resources. Please contact the Medicines Management Team for further information.

GMC guidance - Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices

GMC guidance on *Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices* has recently been updated (updated on 5th April 2021): <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-practice-in-prescribing-and-managing-medicines-and-devices>

The guidance covers considerations when prescribing unlicensed medicines, repeat prescribing and for when patient care is shared with another doctor. The guidance has also been updated to provide information on remote consultations and prescribing.

FreeStyle Libre 2 - Update

- Mid and South Essex CCGs commission the use of FreeStyle Libre on a restricted basis, and only for people with diabetes on insulin, aged 4 and above, attending specialist care, using multiple daily injections or insulin pump therapy, who have been assessed by the specialist diabetes team and fulfil criteria for funding.
 - ◊ FreeStyle Libre is **not funded in type 2 diabetes**, unless **insulin treated and pregnant or on haemodialysis or who are living with a learning disability and recorded on the GP Learning Disability register**.
- In November 2020, FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor was added to the NHS Drug Tariff. This includes real-time glucose alarms that indicate hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia.
- The funding criteria for FreeStyle Libre 2 is the same as FreeStyle Libre. Patients already funded for FreeStyle Libre are eligible for FreeStyle Libre 2 following review and recommendation by the specialist diabetes team.
- FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors are not interchangeable with FreeStyle Libre sensors and require a different reader or an update to the FreeStyle LibreLink app to scan and receive the results. The readers are available from the specialist diabetes team.
- Prescribing recommendations:
 - ◊ FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor is an alternative to FreeStyle Libre sensor - please ensure that both sensors are not prescribed for the same patient. If a patient is switched to FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor, please ensure that FreeStyle Libre is removed from the repeat prescription before adding FreeStyle Libre 2.
 - ◊ In order to avoid waste, please ensure that the patient has used up previously prescribed FreeStyle Libre sensors before switching to FreeStyle Libre 2 sensors.

Chloramphenicol eye drops

Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops are now only licensed for use in patients aged 2 years or older and are contra-indicated in children under the age of 2 years by most manufacturers due to the presence of the excipient boric acid in the formulation. This change is a result of an update in 2017 to the EMA mandatory labelling guidance on excipients. The update has only now come into effect as there is a three year timeline to implement these changes.

Chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops contain boric acid as an excipient in quantities which may exceed the safety limit for children less than 2 years. Exceeding the safety limit on the amount of boron may impair fertility in the future. Chloramphenicol eye ointment does not contain boric acid/borates.


Please note that the BNF, BNF for Children, and NICE guidance on antimicrobial prescribing in primary care have not yet been updated to reflect these changes.

General considerations:

- Most cases of conjunctivitis are viral or self-limiting, and do not require treatment. Symptoms may be eased with self-care measures.
- Most cases of bacterial conjunctivitis are self-limiting and resolve within 5 to 7 days without treatment. Treat with topical antibiotics if severe.

Reminder - EPS (Electronic Prescription Service)

Please remember that all items prescribed should be sent electronically. Some injection items will automatically be ticked on the clinical system as personally administered which will not be sent via the EPS service, for example, Epipen. Please amend and remove the tick to enable EPS if these items are not personally administered by the practice.

If any items are not EPS compliant as indicated by the  sign, please re-add these or contact the Medicines Management Team for further advice.

Reminder - Prescribing Quality Incentive Scheme 2020/21

Please note that the deadline for submission of the Prescribing Quality Incentive Scheme 2020/21 targets and audits has been extended to Friday 30th April 2021.