



• “Free Prescribing Support Services”

There are a growing number of companies that are offering “free prescribing support services” to GP practices. Whilst “free prescribing support services” may appear “attractive” to practices, it is recommended that they are very cautious about agreeing to such services, particularly after one practice in Northants recently had a negative experience. Often the “switches” in medication that these “support services” implement are not the most cost-effective to the NHS and as such are not aligned to the work being undertaken by the CCGs’ Medicine Management Teams. If a practice is considering such a service then it is advised that they first check the proposed work with their local Prescribing Advisor Team.

NOTE - Currently the CCGs’ Medicine Management Team has only approved “prescribing support services” from the “Impact nurses”. The Impact nurses review patients with COPD and asthma and only prescribe, or make recommendations, in accordance with protocols that have been approved by the Medicines Management Team.

• Opioid Prescribing

The following pieces of guidance have been added Pathfinder:

- “Equivalent doses of oral morphine to other oral opioids when used as analgesics in adult palliative care” prepared by UK Medicines Information (UKMi) pharmacists for NHS healthcare professionals http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3540937/qa42_8_opioidconversions.pdf
- “Opioids Aware: A resource for patients and healthcare professionals to support prescribing of opioid medicines for pain.” It is highlighted in this guidance that the risk of harm increases substantially at dose above an oral morphine equivalent of **120mg/day**, but there is no increased benefit. <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3540940/opioids-aware-a-resource-for-patients-and-health-care-professionals.pdf>

• Inhaler technique videos

PrescQIPP have produced a set of very useful patient education videos on using inhalers. They have also produced patient information leaflets to accompany these videos which are available in two different Word formats:

- Leaflet format - This version can be printed double sided (or on two sheets of paper) and folder to create an A5 size leaflet.
- Portrait A4 format - This can be printed double or single sided.

These are available via the following link <http://www.neneccg.nhs.uk/inhaler-techniques/>

• Non-medical prescribers (NMPs)

As highlighted in previous editions of Tablet Press the Medicines Management Team is regularly contacted by the NHS Prescription Service regarding a number of NMPs who are using FP10 forms but they are not registered on the NHS Prescription Services database. All practices are reminded that they should complete the relevant form for each NMP working in the practice. The forms and details of the process to follow can be found at the following link: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3974.aspx>

• NICE guidance for Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s:

NICE have issued new guidance for “Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s: assessment and management” <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng59> on 30th November. NICE bites have now produced a useful summary of this guidance <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/NICE-Bites-Low-back-pain-and-sciatica-No-93-Jan-2017.pdf>

• Predfoam

It was highlighted in the April 2015 edition of Tablet Press that the local formulary has been updated to reflect that Colifoam was the first-line rectal steroid due to the very high cost of prednisolone rectal foam (~£9 versus £68 for 14 doses). Unfortunately as the cost of prednisolone rectal foam has risen further to £187 for 14 doses it is now recommended that all patients being prescribed Predfoam are reviewed to see if they could be switched to Colifoam. The local consultant gastroenterologists have confirmed that Colifoam is a suitable alternative.

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link

<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

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