

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP
(Advising Medical, Pharmacy Practitioners and Non-Medical Prescribers
on prescribing across the county)
Summary of Recommendations from meeting on Weds 12th April 2017

- **Espranor® (buprenorphine oral lypophilisate)**
Espranor is licenced for “substitution treatment for opioid drug dependence, within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment”. Patients requiring treatment for opioid drug dependence should be referred to Substance to Solution (S2S). **NPAG agreed to classify as double red prior approval.**
- **Dapagliflozin and saxagliptin (Qtern®)**
Qtern is a new combination product. NICE guidance currently does not recommend use of a SGLT2 and DPP4 together, with or without metformin. Qtern is cheaper than if the two individual components were prescribed (£49.56 Vs £68.19 for 28 day supply). Following some audit work in primary care confirming that very few patients are taking this combination **NPAG agreed to classify as double red prior approval.** It may be appropriate for stable patients already taking dapagliflozin and saxagliptin to be switched to Qtern.
- **Opicapone (Ongentys®)**
Opicapone is a peripheral, selective and reversible catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) inhibitor. It is licensed for “adjunctive therapy to preparations of levodopa/ DOPA decarboxylase inhibitors (DDCI) in adult patients with Parkinson’s disease and end-of-dose motor fluctuations who cannot be stabilised on those combinations. Clinical trial results indicate it is non-inferior to entacapone, but it is more expensive. **NPAG agreed to classify as double red prior approval.**
- **Pitolisant (Wakix®)**
Pitolisant is the first of a new class of medicine licensed to treat narcolepsy with or without cataplexy. Clinical trial results indicate it is less effective than modafanil. **NPAG agreed to classify as double red prior approval.**
- **Antihistamines**
It was agreed that the following antihistamines: **acrivastine, alimemazine, bilastine, clemastine, cyproheptadine, ketotifen and mizolastine should be classified as double red prior approval** as there are other sedating and non-sedating antihistamines that are more cost-effective and should be tried first. The “Hayfever Tablet Press Extra” has been updated to reflect these changes <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/2667788/tablet-press-extra-hay-fever-v2-2017-3-.pdf>
- **Updated COPD Guidance**
The COPD guidance has been updated to include the products contained within the 2017/18 Prescribing Achievement Framework e.g. Braltus Zonda® (tiotropium). The updated version is now available on Pathfinder <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/2961249/copd-guidelines-updated-march-2017.pdf>
- **Updated Insulin initiation and titration guidance**
The “Insulin initiation and titration guidance” has been updated to reflect that pioglitazone is now licensed for combination with insulin in type 2 diabetes mellitus adult patients with insufficient glycaemic control on insulin for whom metformin is inappropriate because of contraindications or intolerance. The updated version is now available on Pathfinder <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3107827/insulin-initiation-guidance-interim-dec-2015v2go.pdf>

Northamptonshire Prescribing Advisory Group Minutes and bullets can be viewed PathfinderRF via the following link:
<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

Further information or clinical trial data may be obtained from the CCG Prescribing Advisers or Hospital Medicines Information Service.

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