



- **Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme**

Prevent, the valproate pregnancy prevention programme, aimed at minimising pregnancy exposure during treatment with valproate has been launched. Its objective is to provide information about the teratogenic risks and the actions necessary to minimise the risks. GPs should

- identify all women of childbearing potential on valproate,
- arrange for suitable, highly effective contraception (eg Contraceptive implant, IUD, sterilisation) if not already in place and ensure the patient understands the risks and actions to take if she suspects there has been a problem with her contraception or she may be pregnant.
- ensure the patient is referred to her specialist unless she has already seen one recently and is already on prevent, see the woman annually after her specialist appointment and ensure a copy of her Annual Risk Acknowledgement Form is filed in her medical records each year.

More information for health professionals and patients is available at [link](#) and for younger patients at [link](#)

- **Bath additives for child eczema ineffective**

Bath oils used to help treat eczema in children offer no meaningful benefit as part of their care, according to the BATHE trial [link](#). There is strong evidence that the regular use of leave-on emollients prevents flare-ups in eczema and widespread clinical consensus around the role of emollients as soap substitutes. The outcome of this trial supports the advice in Northamptonshire's Emollient Guidelines which recommend that bath and shower emollients should only be prescribed if "itch" remains a problem despite optimum topical therapy. A useful patient information leaflet is available on Pathfinder: [link](#)

- **NEW Infant feed Guidance**

To improve cost effective management of infants requiring specialist milk products such as Cows Milk Protein Allergy (CMPA), Milk intolerance and Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), the guidance has been updated and is available on Pathfinder, [link](#). The first line products have changed to lower cost formulas and there is more detail to guide the GP until the baby has been reviewed by the specialist Dietitian/consultant.

- **Influenza Season 2017/18: Use of Antiviral Medicines**

The most recent surveillance data from Public Health England (PHE) indicates that circulation of influenza in the community has returned to baseline levels. GPs and other prescribers working in primary care should no longer prescribe anti-viral medicines, for the prophylaxis and treatment of influenza on an FP10 prescription form.

- **Security of prescription forms guidance**

The following guidance was recently released by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) [link](#) It has been written to assist prescribers, organisations and their staff on effective and safe management control practices to prevent the fraudulent misuse of prescription forms. It now includes sections on prescriptions lost by patients and issues around sending prescriptions in the post.

The guidance is advisory and based on best practice but it is recommended that relevant GP practice policies, procedures and standard operating procedures are updated/amended in line with the new guidance.

- **Prescribing Clobazam in Primary Care**

Following an incident regarding Clobazam the following advice has been agreed with secondary care.

- New scripts from secondary care will specify both STRENGTH and BRAND. Zacco 10mg/5mls will be the preferred brand and strength for NEW patients going forward. (it is most cost effective and has the longest shelf life).
- GPs will NOT switch existing or new patients from one strength or brand to another.
- Where there are generic prescriptions currently, if the pharmacist supplies a regular brand the GP prescription will be altered to specify this brand. Where there is no regular brand then Zacco brand will be used going forward.
- If the brand name or strength is not specified by secondary care Zacco 10mg/5mls will be prescribed if appropriate.

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link
<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

Disclaimer

Information in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and true. NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG employees accept no liability for loss of any nature, to persons, organisations or institutions that may arise as a result of any errors or omissions.