



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP
(Advising Medical, Pharmacy Practitioners and Non-Medical Prescribers
on prescribing across the county)

Summary of Recommendations from meeting on Weds 21st October 2015

• **LABA / LAMA combination inhalers**

The categorisation of the 4 currently available LAMA/LABA combinations has been rationalised such that the products which contain formulary LAMAs (tiotropium and aclidinium) are amber 2 and those containing non-formulary LAMAs are double red. Thus **NPAG categorised Spiolto Respimat and Duaklir Genuair as amber 2 and Anoro Ellipta and Ultibro Breezhaler as double red**. Patients already taking Anoro may continue to do so.

• **Voltarol® (diclofenac) medicated plaster**

NPAG categorised this as double red; it should be purchased over-the-counter (OTC) if required.

• **Evolocumab (Repatha®) and Alirocumab (Praluent®)**

Evolocumab and alirocumab are monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of hyperlipidemia. They inhibit proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) which is a naturally occurring molecule involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels by modulating low-density lipoprotein cholesterol receptors. NICE is due to publish TAs in April 2016 and June 2016 respectively. **NPAG categorised evolocumab and alirocumab as double red (IFR only)** until a positive NICE TA or a local commissioning policy is agreed.

• **Daily tadalafil 5mg**

NPAG re-categorised daily tadalafil from double red (IFR only) to double red (prior approval). The prior approval criteria will be "On the recommendation of a urologist for patients with co-existing Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia/LUTS and erectile dysfunction, where tamsulosin plus sildenafil are not tolerated".

• **Heel balms**

NPAG re-categorised heel balms from double red (IFR only) to double red (prior approval). The prior approval criteria will be "On the recommendation of a diabetes specialist podiatrist only"; otherwise OTC purchase is advised.

• **Octreotide and lanreotide in palliative care**

NPAG re-categorised octreotide and lanreotide as red for patients under the care of Cancer services or Palliative Care

• **Liothyronine**

There is currently insufficient clinical evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness to support the use of liothyronine (either alone or in combination) for the treatment of hypothyroidism and it is not advised by The British Thyroid Association. It currently costs approximately £2000 per patient per year. **NPAG categorised liothyronine as double red for new patients**. Advice on review of existing patients will follow.

• **Gelclair® and Caphasol®**

Gelclair and Caphasol are used for oral mucositis during chemotherapy and / or radiotherapy and the supply will be provided by the acute trust. **NPAG categorised Gelclair and Caphasol as red**.

• **Circadin in Huntingdon's Disease**

NPAG approved the use of Circadin for the treatment of insomnia in patients with Huntingdon's Disease, including those under the age of 55 (unlicensed indication). **NPAG categorised Circadin in Huntingdon's Disease as amber 2**.

• **Pliazon® cream**

Pliazon is an emollient which is supplied directly by Merck Serono to patients undergoing treatment with cetuximab. GPs should not be asked to prescribe; **NPAG categorised Pliazon as red**.

• **Shared Care**

- A revised shared care protocol for melatonin in children with sleep disorders was agreed. Circadin M/R is now the only formulation approved in Northamptonshire for this (unlicensed) indication, for new initiations. A Tablet Press Extra explaining the new shared care arrangements will be circulated shortly.
- Shared care guidance for low dose aspirin in pregnancy was agreed.
- A revised shared care protocol for the use of methylphenidate and atomoxetine in ADHD was agreed.

• **Guidelines**

The following local guidelines were approved and will be shortly available on Pathfinder -

- Anticoagulation for stroke prevention on non-valvular AF
- Antiplatelet guidelines

The following NICE clinical guidelines were noted -

- Type 1 diabetes in adults <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng17>
- Diabetes (type 1 and type 2) in children and young people <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng18>
- Antimicrobial Stewardship <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng15>

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