NORTHERN IRELAND MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

Health and Social Care Board

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NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

GENERIC ANASTROZOLE AND BICALUTAMIDE — REMINDER

A number of practices are prescribing proprietary Arimidex® and Casodex® tablets for their patients. There is no clinical reason why patients should receive a proprietary product and there are significant generic savings to be made.

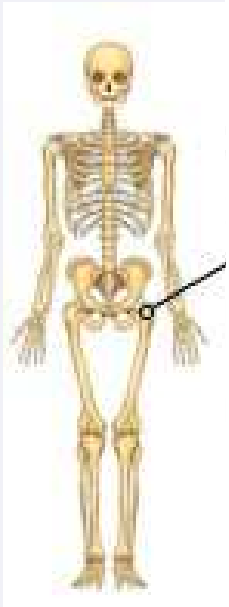
Proprietary Product	Proprietary Price	Generic Product	Drug Tariff Price	Saving per patient, per annum
Arimidex® 1mg tablets (28)	£68.56	**Anastrozole 1mg tabs (28)**	£1.95	**£866**
Casodex® 150mg tabs (28)	£240.00	**Bicalutamide 150mg tabs (28)**	£5.23	**£3,052**
Casodex® 50mg tabs (28)	£119.79	**Bicalutamide 50mg tabs (28)**	£2.14	**£1,529**

Action for GPs

- Please prescribe anastrozole and bicalutamide generically.

REMINDER: STRONTIUM RANELATE (PROTELOS▼): CARDIOVASCULAR RISK—RESTRICTED INDICATION AND ONGOING MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

In Northern Ireland, prescribing of this drug has halved in the months since the prescribing restrictions and monitoring requirements were invoked by the European Medicines Agency in March 2014. However, at individual practice level, data indicates some practices have not reduced their prescribing and, indeed, there are isolated cases of increased prescribing of this drug.



Action for all healthcare professionals

Strontium ranelate (Protelos®▼) must only be used by post-menopausal women or adult men with severe osteoporosis at high risk of fracture:

- for whom there are no other treatments approved for osteoporosis
- without established, current or past history of cardiovascular contraindications (i.e. no IHD, no PAD, no CVD, no uncontrolled hypertension)
- whose risk of developing cardiovascular disease is monitored every 6 to 12 months*
- without current or previous VTE (including DVT or PE)
- without temporary or permanent immobilization (e.g. post-surgical recovery or prolonged bed rest)

*Patients with significant risk factors for cardiovascular events (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, smoking) should only be treated with strontium ranelate after careful consideration.

Further details may be found in Drug Safety Update (MHRA) March 2014 and SmPC.

LITHIUM CARBONATE NAME CHANGE

From 1st October 2015 Camcolit® (lithium carbonate) 250 mg tablets have changed name to 'Lithium Carbonate Essential Pharma 250 mg film-coated tablets'®. The product strength and formulation have not changed, only the name has changed.

This name change only applies to the 250mg immediate release tablets. The 400mg modified release Camcolit® tablets are not affected.

Action for GPs

- Patients currently prescribed Camcolit® 250 mg tablets will need to be prescribed the new name 'Lithium Carbonate Essential Pharma 250 mg film-coated tablets'®.

NEW NICE GUIDANCE

Service Notifications issued in Northern Ireland for the following:

TA 339 — Omalizumab for treating previously treated chronic spontaneous urticarial.
TA 340 — Ustekinumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis (Rapid Review of TA313
TA 341 — Apixaban for the treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism
TA 342 — Vedolizumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis
TA 343 — Obinutuzumab in combination with chlorambucil for untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (joint with TA 344)
TA 344— Ofatumumab in combination with chlorambucil or bendamustine for previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (with TA 343)
TA346 — Aflibercept for treating diabetic macular oedema
TA 350 — Secukinumab for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
NICE (Clinical) Guideline NG17—Type 1 diabetes in adults: diagnosis and management
NICE (Clinical) Guideline NG18 – Diabetes (type 1 and type 2) in children and young people: diagnosis and management
NICE (Clinical) Guideline NG19 – Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management
NICE (Clinical) Guideline NG20 — Coeliac disease: recognition, assessment and management.

NICE Guidance TA 348 — NOT RECOMMENDED — Everolimus for preventing organ rejection in liver transplantation.

MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

The following medicines were considered in October as part of the Northern Ireland Managed Entry process. **For details of the outcomes please refer to the Managed Entry section of the Northern Ireland Formulary website:** http://niformulary.hscni.net/ManagedEntry/MEDecisions/Pages/default.aspx

Primary and Secondary Care	Secondary Care
• Avanafil (Spedra®)	• Adalimumab (Humira®)
• Insulin glargine (Toujeo®)	• Ceftobiprole medocaril (Zevtera®)
• Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate (Elvanse Adult®)	• Darunavir (Prezista®)
• Sitagliptin (Januvia®)	• Ketoconazole (Ketoconazole HRA)
• Tafluprost + timolol (Taptiqom®)	• Pasireotide (as pamoate) (Signifor®)
• Tolvaptan (Jinarc®)	• Posaconazole (Noxafil®)
• Riociguat (Adempas®)	• Sorafenib (Nexavar®)
	• Tigecycline (Tygacil®)
	• Vedolizumab (Entyvio®)

This newsletter has been produced for GPs and Pharmacists by the Regional Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team. If you have any queries or require further information on the contents of this newsletter, please contact one of the Medicines Management pharmacists in your local HSCB office.

Belfast Office: 028 9536 3926
South Eastern Office: 028 9147 5133
Southern Office: 028 9536 2009
Northern Office: 028 9536 2835
Western Office: 028 9536 1008

References

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2) BSO / HSCB. Drug Tariff, October 2015. http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2034.htm
3) HSCB. NI Formulary http://niformulary.hscni.net
4) MHRA. Drug Safety Update march 2014 Strontium ranelate: cardiovascular risk. https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/strontium-ranelate-cardiovascular-risk