NORTHERN IRELAND MEDICINES MANAGEMENT



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Health and Social Care Board

NEWSLETTER



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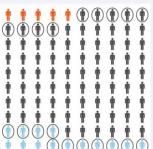
- Decision tools for atrial fibrillation
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DECISION TOOLS FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

NICE atrial fibrillation patient decision aid (PDA)

Do you have a patient that is interested in considering options for treatment for their atrial fibrillation (AF) or would like more information on risks and benefits? If yes, consider directing them to the use of the NICE Patient Decision Aid. The patient decision aid can help the patient make the decision that is right for them, by working through the tool online. It clearly sets out risks and benefits using pictures and simple language.

For prescribers there is a tool launched from Prescribing Decision Support Ltd at the



New decision tools for anticoagulation launched for prescribers

Centre for Medicines Optimisation, Keele University, supported by NICE. This tool supports the majority of recommendations relating to the diagnosis and assessment of AF, assessment of stroke and bleeding risks, and the anticoagulation options in the NICE guideline on AF. It also supports the contents in the NICE patient decision aid for AF. This tool is for use with adults (aged 18 years+) who have suspected or diagnosed nonvalvular AF. It may initially seem time consuming to use but could prove a useful tool for those patients that you are not clear on benefits and risks of NOACs. Try it out for yourself, click the link and click on the tab 'create new patient profile': http://www.anticoagulation-dst.co.uk. There is also an American Decision Aid programme for AF which shows both benefits (prevention of strokes) and harms (major bleeds) in one graphic at

https://healthdecision.org/tool.html#/tool/afib

Action for practices and community pharmacists

- Consider using a PDA when counselling a patient on the benefits and risks of oral anticoagulation in AF.
- Consider directing the patient to the PDA to read at home following their consultation as there is a lot of information to take in. Practices may wish to add the NICE PDA to their websites to help patients access it.

DRIVING AND DIABETES

The Belfast Diabetes Steering Group and Diabetes UK have compiled a series of information leaflets on driving and diabetes for patients and healthcare professionals. The documents have been approved by the DVA Senior Medical Advisor in Swansea. There are three leaflets, providing information for drivers of group 1 vehicles, group 2 vehicles and notes for healthcare professionals.

These may also be accessed freely by anybody through the Diabetes UK website:

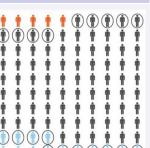
- At NI News section at: https://www.diabetes.org.uk/ln_Your_Area/N_Ireland/News/ (scroll down to 19th Oct 2015) or
- By directly clicking on each of the following links:

INFORMATION ON DRIVING AND DIABETES: NOTE TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

INFORMATION ON DRIVING AND DIABETES: GROUP 1 VEHICLES INFORMATION ON DRIVING AND DIABETES: GROUP 2 VEHICLES

Action for practices and community pharmacists

Healthcare professionals are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the resources and provide this information to relevant patients.



LEUKOTRIENE RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS FOR VIRAL WHEEZE

Around a third of children experience at least one episode of wheeze before the age of five years. Evidence suggests that in children of pre-school age, recurrent wheezing that occurs exclusively in association with viral infection of the respiratory tract may represent a separate entity from atopic asthma. This phenomenon is known as episodic viral wheezing (EVW).

Cochrane carried out a systematic review to evaluate the available evidence for the efficacy of maintenance (regular as preventive treatment) and intermittent (during symptomatic episodes) leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRAs) in the management of children aged between one and six years seemingly presenting with EVW.



The authors concluded that acute episodes of EVW in pre-school children are common, are associated with significant morbidity, and place a substantial burden on healthcare resources and society as a whole. Despite well designed trials, there is little available evidence of significant clinical benefit from either maintenance or intermittent LTRA therapy compared to placebo in pre-school children with EVW. Therefore until further data are available, LTRA should be used with caution in individual children with EVW. When used, a therapeutic trial is suggested during which efficacy should be carefully monitored.

Action for GPs

- LTRA should be used with caution in individual children with EVW.
- When used, a therapeutic trial is suggested during which efficacy should be carefully monitored.

NEW NICE GUIDANCE

No new service notifications issued in Northern Ireland this month.

MANAGED ENTRY DECISIONS

The following medicines were considered in December 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

- Ciclosporin (Ikervis[®])
- Tiotropium/olodaterol inhalation solution (Spiolto[®] Respimat[®])
- Triamcinolone hexacetonide 20mg/ml suspension

Secondary Care

- Aflibercept (Eylea[®])
- Apremilast (Otezla[®])
- Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, certolizumab pegol, golimumab, tocilizumab and abatacept
- Adalimumab, etanercept infliximab and golimumab
- Pembrolizumab (Keytruda[®])

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.

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References

- NICE. Patient decision aid atrial fibrillation.
- 2) Keele university. http://www.anticoagulation-dst.co.uk/
- 3) Health decision_{TM} Patient decision aids https://healthdecision.org/tool.html#/tool/afib
- 4) Brodlie M et al. Leukotriene receptor antagonists as maintenance and intermittent therapy for episodic viral wheeze in children. Cochrane database of Sys Rev 2015 DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008202.pub2

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