

Quick bites

- The Dorset Formulary is available at: www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk
- [Medicines Health Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\) Drug Safety Update](#)
- Details of medicine '[Shortages, Discontinuations and Patent Expiries](#)' can be found on the NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service website.
- Over the last few months the NHS Think Kidneys programme has been running a campaign for the general public to raise awareness of the importance of kidneys for life and health. For further information please visit the website at: <https://www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/campaign/>
- The [DMAG Summary of recommendations](#) formulated from the decisions reached at the November 2016 DMAG meeting.
- Public Health England has published [Guidance on Infection Control in Schools](#) and other Childcare Settings.
- It is estimated that on an average day in England, between 30,000 and 35,000 adults with a learning disability are being prescribed an antipsychotic, an antidepressant or both without appropriate clinical indications (psychosis or affective/anxiety disorder). NHS England has produced a document on '[Stopping over-medication of people with learning disabilities](#)'.

Medicines Safety Officer Update

The MHRA has published a [clarification](#) about the concomitant use of spironolactone or eplerenone with renin-angiotensin drugs in patients with heart failure: the combination can be used together but WITH CAUTION. The previous warning in February 2016 had been interpreted by some that the drugs should not be used together.

UCB Pharma has [written](#) to health professionals about the potential risk of dosing errors with **levetiracetam** (Keppra®) liquid leading to overdose. Ten-fold accidental overdose errors have been reported, mainly attributed to the use of an inappropriately-sized measuring device.

However, while further clarification from the MHRA about this letter is required we would suggest that GPs communicate with their local community pharmacists to ensure that patients are receiving the correct size of oral syringe. Levetiracetam is classified as AMBER on the Dorset formulary.

Fosfomycin- a reminder of updated arrangements for obtaining fosfomycin for primary care patients

A local hospital has asked us to remind practices of the updated arrangements for obtaining fosfomycin for primary care patients since patients are being sent to them for supply. Since March 2015 Profile Pharma Limited has been granted a product licence for fosfomycin 3g granules for oral solution, Monuril™. (Please note BNF 72 has not been updated to recognise this and currently states 'oral preparations containing fosfomycin are not marketed in the UK and use of these preparations is unlicensed).

- Therefore fosfomycin can be prescribed, following microbiology advice, in primary care as a 'GREEN' drug (on the Pan Dorset Formulary); for resistant urinary tract infections in symptomatic patients.
- Outside of core hours, the prescriber should ensure patients' results indicate that the infection is fosfomycin sensitive.
- The licensed fosfomycin (as fosfomycin trometamol) 3g granules for oral solution (Monuril™) are available from all major wholesalers, so community pharmacies can order directly and there should be no undue delay in the patient receiving the drug (pharmacies are unlikely to keep this as stock).

Please find the [DMAG fosfomycin guidance](#) and the [SPC for Monuril \(fosfomycin\) in the eMC](#).

Proposed and upcoming practice mergers

As part of the formal merger application process, practices have to declare that they have been in touch with the CCG Medicines Management team to discuss the implications that the merger will have on prescribing and medicines management. This engagement is crucial to ensure that completion of the NHSBSA J Code merger paperwork (which comes from the Medicines Management team) is aligned with the clinical systems merge and the bulk transfer. It also allows sufficient time to determine any revised positions for prescribing measures. Currently, we are trying to mitigate some of the risk to the prescribing budget by manually processing prescriber additions/deletions for merging practices so it is essential that we know the proposed situation as soon as possible.

Mental Capacity (MCA), Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and administering covert medications

In a judgment published by District Judge Bellamy on 6 July 2016, the Court of Protection has given guidance on covert medication and Deprivation of Liberty (DoL). Please visit the health law webpage [here](#), to see guidance from the courts in this area. In addition please find NICE publication [Quality Statement 6: Covert medicines administration](#).

Recent recommendations from the Pain Clinic

A locum consultant working for Dorset Healthcare NHS University Foundation Trust in the Pain Clinic has been making prescribing recommendations to primary care which are outside the agreed local formulary. The main recommendations we have been made aware of were for BuTrans® (buprenorphine) patches, magnesium and vitamin B. All of these items are not on formulary for this indication. DHUFT service managers apologise for the confusion this has caused. The consultant has now left the Trust. Where they are aware of the issue or have been requested to support, the advice provided by the service is that BuTrans® is not recommended locally for NHS prescription and where a patient wishes to trial magnesium and vitamin B it is suggested patients purchase a multivitamin.

Suspected Cow's Milk Protein Allergy in Infants: Guidelines for Health Professionals in Primary Care

Information developed in collaboration with the Community dietetic service at Dorset Healthcare NHS University Foundation Trust is being updated. If you would like to contribute to the update please find more information attached to this newsletter.

Homely remedies

It has been highlighted through our 'Medicines.Question' inbox that a number of requests are being made by care homes for GPs to authorise homely medicines for residential patients. To clarify: care homes are recommended to have a homely remedies policy which includes how long these should be given; before a review by the GP to consider whether a regular prescription is required. Care home staff who give non-prescription medicines or other homely remedies to residents should be named in the homely remedies process. They should sign the process to confirm they have the skills to administer the homely remedy and acknowledge that they will be accountable for their actions. There should therefore be **no need for a GP to sign an authorisation** for paracetamol to be administered on an 'as required' basis. For additional information please find NICE guidance ['Managing medicines in care homes'](#).

Email notices from Dorset CCG Medicines Management Team

From April 2017, in an effort to reduce the number of emails that we send to GP practices, we will no longer be distributing medicines management newsletters by email. The newsletters are published on the medicines management pages of the [Dorset CCG website](#) and practices will be notified of new publications via the GP Bulletin.

With immediate effect we will no longer be emailing out the GP Prescribing Finance Schedule (prescribing budget position) to practices. This can be found on the [Business Intelligence Dorset](#) medicines management pages on the Dorset CCG intranet.

Specialist medicines advice can be obtained from the Medicines Advice Service at Southampton General Hospital: **023 8120 6908** or **023 8120 6909** or e-mail medicinesinformation@uhs.nhs.uk