NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Fosfomycin supply arrangements

Background

Since 2004 there has been a significant increase in clinical urinary tract infections (UTI) caused by multi-resistant ESBL (extended spectrum beta-lactamase) - producing coliform bacteria. Most ESBL coliforms are sensitive to fosfomycin.

Fosfomycin is an oral antibiotic (unlicensed in the UK) and is indicated for the treatment of resistant urinary tract infections. It is not generally stocked by community pharmacies and as a consequence of being unlicensed can take several days to obtain.

Local arrangements for obtaining fosfomycin for primary care patients

If the patient is unable to obtain a supply within a reasonable timeframe, local arrangements have been developed with two acute trusts, Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, to make fosfomycin available to primary care patients, preventing unnecessary hospital admission.

To obtain a supply of fosfomycin for a primary care patient, from either Poole Hospital or Dorset County Hospital, the GP will need to complete the relevant form to be faxed to the hospital pharmacy. For supplies from Dorset County Hospital, the request form will also need to be sent with an FP10 prescription.

After the form has been faxed to the pharmacy, the GP should make contact by telephone, to:

- check the fax has been received;
- confirm the pharmacy has sufficient stock;
- and to advise them when the patient will be coming to collect the fosfomycin.

At present, both acute trusts have agreed to provide this service at no extra cost to the CCG, as the numbers of patients requiring access to fosfomycin in this way is anticipated to be small. However, if the numbers of patients increase, then financial arrangements may be reviewed.

Approved by NHS Dorset CCG Medicines Optimisation Group (MOG), June 2013.