



Breaking news

The latest update from the medicines management committees (MMC) and the medicines management team: www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/departments-and-directories/medicines-management/

Clinical news

- **Asenapine has NOT been approved for use** across the trust and wider health economy because of a lack of long term data, concerns over the complex administration and current limited medicine license. This follows an extensive review of the current literature by the mental health guidelines committee. Further details are available from the chief pharmacist's office - angela.dawson@southernhealth.nhs.uk
- Although there is now one generic quetiapine XL manufacturer the price is yet to drop to a comparable level with immediate release quetiapine. Therefore **quetiapine XL remains non-formulary**. The committee will review the situation in 3 months.
- The **trifluoperazine supply issues continue**. The 1mg/5ml syrup is readily available but the licensed 1mg and 5mg tablets are unavailable until at least November. In exceptional circumstances (where an alternative antipsychotic is not appropriate) there is an imported, unlicensed 1mg and 5mg tablet available and a specially manufactured 5mg/5ml solution, although both are associated with considerably higher purchasing costs.
- New advice is available from the chief medical officer on **Vitamin D supplementation in at risk groups** (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/advice-vitamin-d/>)

New NICE guidelines are available on.....

- Infection control CG139
- Patient experience in adult NHS Services CG138
- Epilepsy GC137

Visit www.nice.org.uk for more details.

New and Updated Policies.....

- **Guidelines on preventing fatalities from inappropriate loading doses**, are now available on the trust website this includes advice on phenytoin, digoxin, warfarin and amiodarone loading doses.
- The mental health guidelines committee are convening a small working group to review the medicines management procedures in the new Hospital at Home teams. If you would like to be involved or comment please contact Vanessa.Lawrence@southernhealth.nhs.uk
- The March edition of the Learning from experience newsletter is now out and available on the medicines management website. Highlights include new paracetamol dosing reminder, insulin errors and cold storage audit results.
- **Syringe driver policy for adult palliative care** (policy number HCHC/CLI/31/V2.1) has been approved and is now available and on the website. Syringe driver essential training can be booked via LEaD.

Coming soon.....

- The mental health guidelines committee are currently reviewing and updating all rapid tranquilisation guidelines. Any comments can be sent to Marion.Wetherill@southernhealth.nhs.uk
- The medicines committee is running a consultation on changing the clozapine and long acting injection outpatient prescriptions to 6 monthly (instead of the current 3 monthly). Please send any comments regarding this proposed change to Stephen.bleakley@southernhealth.nhs.uk

What's new

- There is a new Trust wide non-formulary application form. Psychotropic drugs which are currently non-formulary are:
 - Duloxetine
 - Semisodium Valproate (Depakote)
 - Paliperidone oral and long acting injection
 - Pregabalin
 - Quetiapine XL
 - Risperidone Consta is formulary BUT requires a specific application form for authorisation.
- For a list of formulary physical health drugs visit the relevant acute hospital trust website.

- There is a new learning module available from the MHRA on SSRIs available at <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/>. (Note this was written before the current QT prolongation alerts on citalopram and escitalopram).
- The 11th edition of the Maudsley Prescribing guidelines is now out. There is no Trust wide distribution so clinicians are encouraged to purchase their own copies (current amazon price is £48 paperback, £36 e-book).
- The medicines management team have just completed an extensive spot check on storage of medication across the trust (in response to a Department of Health request). While initial results were encouraging action plans are being developed to address concerns. Your local medicines management team can provide further details.

Reminder.....

- Please can all clinicians remember to clearly indicate which preparation of quetiapine is recommended in correspondences to primary care.
- All staff administering medication are reminded that they **must initial the prescription chart or sheet at the time of administration** and any omissions in administration must be reported on a trust incident form and fully investigated.

Patient and carer information....

For unbiased, peer reviewed and updated patient and carer information on psychiatric medication and conditions visit: www.choiceandmedication.org.uk/southernhealth

Feel free to email stephen.bleakley@southernhealth.nhs.uk if you would like to make any comments about our breaking news bulletin or recommend future news items.