

Wednesday 7th April 2020

Nutrition for the End of Life

Some helpful aids to nutritional input at the End of Life have been developed for North and Mid Hampshire and may also be of interest in other areas. They cover:

- Eating and drinking towards the end of life
- End of Life considerations in nutrition and hydration care
- Nutrition and hydration aims and objectives

Click [here](#) to view the documents

Respiratory Inhalers

A huge increase in demand has led to a shortage of many respiratory inhalers. The British Thoracic Society (BTS) has some tips to minimise the current demand plus some guidance on alternatives if the patients' usual treatments cannot be obtained.

Available via [BTS website](#) under *BTS information: Respiratory inhalers*

Drug monitoring advice (Near patient testing)

The NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have prepared practical guidance on management of drugs requiring monitoring during COVID-19 for primary care.

The following medications have been covered so far, but more are due to be added at a later date:

Azathioprine, leflunomide, mercaptopurine, methotrexate, sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquine, ciclosporin, penicillamine, warfarin, lithium and clozapine.

The guidance can be accessed [here](#)

Care homes- Good practice guide

The British Geriatrics Society has produced "Managing the COVID-19 pandemic in care homes" which may be accessed via [BGS care homes guide](#).

This guide is written for NHS and care staff jointly. Regarding key recommendation 12, we are still awaiting news of any change to legislation to make it possible for care homes to hold stocks of regularly used anticipatory medicines.

Tissue Viability Advice Line – extended hours

The Tissue Viability Nursing service will be operating extended hours during the Covid-19 outbreak. The service is open to Tissue Viability Link Nurses, all SHFT teams, ICT teams and Practice Nurses within Hampshire for specialist advice on wound care and dressings. It will be available between 11am and 4pm every weekday and the team can be contacted on **07733 264059**

To maintain the supply chain do NOT over order any medicines



TV Team - Live Line
Updated - COVID (3)

Emerade (adrenaline) autoinjector 300microgram

A [medicines recall](#) has been issued for all unexpired batches of this strength of Emerade. Healthcare professionals should, contact patients and carers to inform them of the recall information contained within this alert using the letters attached to the recall. Further advice has also been issued regarding the 500microgram strength. Please contact a member of your CCG Medicines Optimisation Team if you need further clarification about this.

Omeprazole soluble and liquid formulations

Where omeprazole capsules cannot be swallowed it can be administered as either a dispersible tablet or in a liquid formulation.

1st choice: Omeprazole dispersible gastro-resistant tablet 10mg, 20mg or 40mg.

- Licensed for use in adults and children from one year of age who weigh 10kg or more.
- Can be dispersed in non-carbonated water or fruit juice and the liquid swallowed
- Can be dispersed in 50mL of non-carbonated water for administration via a gastric tube. (Full details are given in the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#))

2nd choice: Omeprazole suspension fixed price special as listed in the Drug Tariff

- Strengths available are 5mg in 5mL, 10mg in 5mL, 20mg in 5mL and 40mg in 5mL
- May be required for infants or where the required dose is less than 10mg, or where it is necessary to provide a sugar-free preparation.

Not currently supported:

A new commercially available suspension has come onto the market that is available in 75mL bottles at strength of either 2mg per mL or 4mg per mL. It is presented as a powder that must be reconstituted in the pharmacy prior to dispensing. Once reconstituted it must be stored in the fridge and used within 28 days. This product needs to be evaluated by local medicines committees before it can be added to local formularies.

UK citizens “caught “overseas

Some GP practices have received calls from anxious patients concerned about their medication supplies whilst caught overseas, in this time of crisis. The Wessex LMC has general advice regarding prescribing whilst abroad. This, in summary, is to direct patients to a local source of medical care. The travel health pro website (NaTHNaC) also has COVID-19 resources for professionals.

<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/patientstravellingabroadprescriptionsadvice>

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/92/covid-19-resources>

To maintain the supply chain do NOT over order any medicines

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance (7)

Prepared by Catherine McLean, Sue Wakelin and Dr. Emma Harris, on behalf of the Southampton, Hampshire and IoW CCGs Medicines Optimisation Teams

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