

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance (17)

Date: 24th June 2020

NICE: COVID 19 rapid guideline: renal transplantation (NG178)

This guideline covers children, young people and adults who need or who have had a kidney transplant, and live donors. It also advises transplant and referring centres on how to run their services, while keeping them safe for patients, donors and staff during the pandemic.

NHS England & Improvement: After-care needs of inpatients recovering from COVID-19 (8th June). [Link](#)

This guidance supports primary care and community health services to meet the immediate and longer-term care needs of patients discharged following an acute episode of COVID-19, by describing the typical expected health care needs of these patients, post-discharge.

Availability of Evorel® transdermal patches

Following the recent supply problems for the Evorel® patch products, Theramex have provided an update.

- Evorel Sequi® has been relaunched and will be available from 1st June
- Evorel® 25, 50, 75 and 100 are all currently available. A supply shortage for Evorel 75 is anticipated from mid to the end of June.
- Evorel Conti® will be restocked in mid-June

South Central Antimicrobial Network (SCAN) Antibiotic Prescribing Guidelines App launched

SCAN guidelines are now available on the digital platform [MicroGuide](#) – this can be accessed as an app on a phone or tablet device or via a web viewer on a desktop computer or laptop.

For a transition period these guidelines can also continue to be accessed as a pdf on the www.nhsantibioticguidelines.org.uk website as well as via MicroGuide^(R). To ensure that you have the most up to date version, please use the online link and do not save the pdf version on your computer, or print the guidelines. Please be reassured that both resources will be kept up to date while both are live online.

Accessing on your desktop:

The guidelines can be accessed directly: <https://viewer.microguide.global/SCAN/SCAN>
This url will remain the same (even when individual guidelines are updated) therefore consider adding this to your favourites.

Accessing on your phone/tablet:

The MicroGuide^(R) app is available to download free from the App store (Apple) or Google Play (Android). Search for **MicroGuide^(R)** in App Store/Google Play and download (as per icon below).

Once the user agreement has been reviewed you will be asked to create a profile. Many other CCGs and hospital Trusts use this platform for antimicrobial guidance so the appropriate guidance 'South Central Antimicrobial Network' will need to be selected from the list of guidelines available. Do not select the acute Trust that you are usually associated with as those will be the acute Trust guidelines. Complete other boxes as appropriate. Then click 'Submit'.

To maintain the supply chain do NOT over order any medicines

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Click inside the circle next to the 'South Central Antimicrobial Network' and finally on top left click 'get selected guide'(for both Apple and Android users). Please see poster



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MHRA Update: Dexamethasone in the treatment of COVID-19: implementation and management of supply for treatment in hospitals

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) issued an alert confirming that dexamethasone has been demonstrated to have a clear place in the management of hospitalised patients with COVID-19. There were no excess harms identified in using 6 mg once per day (either by mouth or by intravenous injection) of dexamethasone in the patient population. Dexamethasone was not used in pregnant women. Clinicians should therefore consider dexamethasone for the management of hospitalised patients with COVID-19 who require oxygen or ventilation. **Out of hospital treatment is not appropriate.** Further [information can be found in the CMO's alert](#) (see pdf attachment) on the Central Alerting System website.

Management of patients with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions and corticosteroid treatment

The British Society for Rheumatology and other associate partners on 16th June have published guidance on: [Management of patients with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions who are on corticosteroids, require initiation of oral/IV corticosteroids or a corticosteroid injection.](#)

This guidance relates to musculoskeletal (MSK) service provision across primary, community and secondary care and is applicable to adults and children. The use of steroid medication is one of the management options for a range of MSK conditions and in particular rheumatic conditions, and this guidance aims to assist decisions on the use of such medication during the pandemic. The guidance supersedes the specialist guidance - Management of Patients with Musculoskeletal and Rheumatic Conditions on Corticosteroids - published as part of NHS England and NHS Improvement's phase one response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Staneke® and Sastravi® (Levodopa /carbidopa /entacapone) supply problems

The suppliers of Staneke® and Sastravi® tablets in various strengths are out of stock. For patients with insufficient supplies of affected brands/ strengths until the anticipated resupply date, clinicians should consider prescribing levodopa/carbidopa/entacapone combination tablets generically so that pharmacies can supply an equivalent preparation of an available product. See [Link](#)

Contact your local Parkinson's Disease specialist teams if further advice required.

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

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