

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance

Issue: 25

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1. NICE: Patient decision aid. Lynch syndrome: should I take aspirin to reduce my chance of getting bowel cancer? August 2020 ([Link](#))

NICE has published a decision aid to help people with Lynch syndrome decide whether they should take aspirin to reduce their chance of getting bowel cancer. The tool includes text and diagrams to help health professionals explain the likely benefits, side effects and other important aspects of treatment, so that the person can make an informed choice.

An accompanying user guide ([Link](#)) has also been published, which gives guidance for healthcare professionals on how to use the decision aid and explains in detail the evidence used to produce it. The decision aid supports the implementation of the recommendation in the updated NICE colorectal cancer guideline ([Link](#)).

In NICE NG151, it states: Consider daily aspirin, to be taken for more than 2 years, to prevent colorectal cancer in people with Lynch syndrome. This is an off-label use of aspirin. Commonly used aspirin doses in current practice are 150 mg or 300 mg. Studies are still underway to determine the optimum daily dose of aspirin.

If aspirin is to be prescribed then please also consider GI risk and prescribe a PPI if needed.

2. Supply Disruption: Lithium carbonate (Priadel) 200mg and 400mg modified release tablets. 21 August 2020 ([Link](#))

Priadel® (lithium carbonate) 200mg and 400mg modified-release tablets are being discontinued in the UK and remaining supplies of both strengths are expected to be exhausted by April 2021.

Clinical guidance advises that patients must be maintained on the same brand of lithium to ensure that a consistent serum lithium level is maintained. The switching of brands necessitated by this supply distribution alert will require

individualised determination of dose, close monitoring of serum lithium levels and vigilance for relapse and tolerability in all cases.

This alert contains advice on the management of patients who will be affected. Southern Health FT, Solent NHST and the Isle of Wight NHST are working together with CCGs to develop local guidance and an action plan to implement the requirements contained in this alert.

3. NICE: Anaphylaxis: assessment and referral after emergency treatment-updated guideline (CG134). August 2020. ([Link](#))

Advice was added to recommendation 1.1.11 that people should be offered a prescription for 2 further adrenaline injectors before discharge and advised to carry these with them at all times.

4. Reminder: SCAN Antibiotic Prescribing Guidelines, Micro Guide App.

This is a reminder that the guidelines will move exclusively to the App from **7th September**, after which the PDF will no longer be updated and should not be used thereafter.