

Medicines

Optimisation news headlines

April 2017

EMIS Web Protocols

This year's Medicines Optimisation Incentive Scheme focuses on Medication Review, Medicines Optimisation, Deprescribing in Polypharmacy and Frailty.

Dr Simon Sherwin from Waterfront Solent Surgery has written some helpful protocols and templates for EMIS Web which he is happy to share with interested practices (see details below).

Frailty Register Generator Protocol & Template

To help get ahead of the game for this year I have created a Frailty Register Generator protocol.

- This protocol builds on the EMIS electronic Frailty Index (eFI) score calculation.
- As a patient record is loaded, and the eFI score suggests frailty, my protocol will look to see if there is a frailty Read code in the clinical record.
- If not, a template is launched which allows you to add a severely frail or moderately frail Read code and add the eFI score.
- It also allows the option of adding Frailty as a problem title.
- We are doing this for the severely frail patients, as these will require an offer of an enhanced summary care record and medication review in the forthcoming year.
- In our practice, we favour the template over bulk adding frailty codes as the eFI is only an indicator and this protocol allows clinical judgement.
- A simple search in population manager can then be set up to show your severely frail and moderately frail patients.

DOAC Safety Alert Protocols & Template

I have also created a safety alert for DOACs. This group of protocols and templates will:

- Ensure all patients started or currently on a DOAC have had an eGFR in the last year - if not a warning and alert are shown.
- If the eGFR in last year is <50, it will look for a creatinine clearance (CC) in the last year.
- If there is no estimated CC it will offer the option to calculate one.
- If you choose to calculate a CC, it will launch a template to calculate the CC.
- The template contains links to the District Prescribing Committee guidance on DOACs, for dosing instructions

Don't forget that the inherent creatinine clearance calculator provided by EMIS does not work because it looks for the "serum" creatinine code and not the "plasma" creatinine code provided. It would be prudent to archive the EMIS calculator in favour of this one.

NB. Both protocols need to be set up to run on loading a clinical record for GPs and NPs only.



The Medicines Optimisation team can assist with identification and in-depth medication review of high-risk vulnerable patients. To obtain Dr Sherwin's protocols and templates, please contact your Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist or Technician or Jan Hounslow / Liz Williams on j.hounslow@nhs.net or Elizabethwilliams1@nhs.net

Specials item

Fosfomycin = Monuril

Last month, four prescriptions for generic fosfomycin 3g sachets were dispensed at a cost of £383. If the prescriptions had been for Monuril 3g sachets the total cost would have been £24.30. We are aware that there have been some difficulties obtaining Monuril but have been assured that supplies are now coming through.

Please prescribe Monuril sachets wherever fosfomycin is recommended for treatment.

SAFETY WARNINGS

Valproate and pregnancy

The MHRA has reiterated previously published information concerning the use of valproate in women of childbearing potential. See the [Drug Safety Update](#) for full details.

This topic was raised at the last District Prescribing Committee meeting and all participating organisations have been asked to check that they have procedures in place to ensure that patients are fully counselled about the risks. Primary care clinicians should review all patients affected by this warning to confirm that the required actions have been taken.

Specific groups who may require further engagement are those who were prescribed valproate at a very young age where such discussions may not have been deemed necessary, or those who have been prescribed valproate for an unlicensed indication.

Phenytoin capsules

Phenytoin is classed as a category 1 anticonvulsant, that is;

“doctors are advised to ensure that their patient is maintained on a specific manufacturer's product”.

Generic phenytoin capsules are now available as 25mg, 50mg, 100mg and 300mg (Flynn hard capsules from Flynn Pharma) or 100mg strength only (NRIM capsules from Auden MacKenzie).

The two brands of 100mg capsule have an identical description on clinical prescribing systems and national prescribing information systems, so it is not possible to distinguish between them either when writing a prescription or when looking to see what has been dispensed.

We are currently discussing this issue with community pharmacies to ensure continuity in the brands that are dispensed for individual patients.

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