

Medicines

Optimisation news headlines December 2019 - January 2020

Community Nursing Palliative Care Administration Charts

Updated versions of the community nursing Palliative Care PRN and syringe driver charts have now been introduced. For practices with Ardens or QMasters services, the templates will be supplied directly to EMIS and SystmOne. If your practice does not have either of these services the new forms can be accessed at:

<https://www.futureplanning.org.uk/csci-and-prn-downloads.html>

The updated charts include:

- Guidance on the back of each chart
- Structural changes to improve/support clinical decision making and patient safety e.g. record opioid patch in use
- EMIS and SystmOne template versions to enable GPs to complete charts on their desktop and add to patients' medical records, before sending to community nursing teams via NHSmail or printing and signing in the GP practice.

N.B:

With regard to prescribing anticipatory medication, Ardens templates may soon encourage prescribers to provide 5 or 10 ampoules rather than 3 to avoid the risk of patients experiencing uncontrolled symptoms whilst additional supplies are sourced.

Please remove all previous versions from circulation; both electronic and hard copies.

Inhaler recycling and reducing medicines waste

[Recyclenow](#) is a website that provides information on waste reduction and disposal of unwanted items in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. Medicines are among the numerous items considered here.

In particular there is an inhaler recycling scheme run by GSK that is called [Complete the Cycle](#). The scheme enables all types and make of inhaler to be returned to one of the many participating community pharmacies across Hampshire and the surrounding areas. The components can then be recycled or used to generate energy without release of greenhouse gases. Full details of the service and participating pharmacies can be found on the Complete the Cycle webpage:

<https://uk.gsk.com/en-gb/responsibility/our-planet/complete-the-cycle/>



MHRA Drug Safety Update

A recap of the alerts that have been issued over the last few months.

December 2019

Domperidone

- Domperidone is only authorised for the relief of symptoms of nausea and vomiting in adults and adolescents 12 years of age or older and weighing 35 kg or more.
- Domperidone should be used at the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration and maximum treatment duration should not usually exceed 1 week
- Consider alternative treatments to domperidone in children younger than 12 years of age who need relief of symptoms of nausea and vomiting.
- Domperidone is also used outside of its authorised indications in children in the UK for gastrokinetic effects in conditions other than nausea and vomiting. If a specialist physician considers, based on their professional judgement and available evidence of the medical condition, that domperidone use in any condition is justified in a child younger than 12 years, the patient or parent/caregiver should be fully informed of the potential benefits and risks of the different options.

Emerade autoinjectors

- Recall of all unexpired batches that have not been dispensed.
- Some pens have failed to activate when the plunger has been depressed. The risk is increased by exposure to temperatures above 25°C
- On the basis of all the information available, MHRA advice is that most Emerade pens will activate as normal and patients are advised to continue to follow existing advice to carry two in-date pens with them at all times.
- No further supplies of Emerade will be available until the issue has been fully resolved.
- Prescribers should prescribe adrenaline autoinjectors of another brand, until this error has been corrected and ensure that training is provided for the alternative brands.
- There are insufficient supplies of alternative brands to replace all the Emerade pens held by patients.

November 2019

Yellow fever vaccine

- Strengthened measures to mitigate the risk of adverse effects, especially in those who may have a weaker immune system.

October 2019

Ingenol (Picato®)

- Safety review being undertaken to assess the incidence of benign and malignant skin tumours in patients using ingenol mebutate gel.

Prescribing in renal impairment

- Advice for healthcare professionals in calculating creatinine clearance (eGFR versus Cockcroft and Gault

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Quality services, better health

