

# **Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester District Prescribing Committee (DPC)**

## **Summary update for April 2020**

### **Formulary Updates**

**Cyanocobalamin (vitamin B12) tablets 50microgram (licensed) and 1000 micrograms (unlicensed nutritional supplements)** are supported for use as an alternative to hydroxocobalamin injection when necessary during Covid 19 pandemic. Hydroxocobalamin injections to re-start as soon as it is safe to do so. This is in line with the British Society for Haematology guidelines: <https://b-s-h.org.uk/media/18259/bsh-guidance-b12-replacement-covid-1924042020finalversion2020-4-3.pdf>. Consider adding to formularies as GREEN. (Note: ensure patients meet exception criteria outlined in the NHS England [Guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care](#) before prescribing. Vitamin B12 supplements are readily available to purchase from pharmacies and health food stores.

**Aripiprazole injection 7.5mg/ml (Abilify®)** This formulation is supported for use in accordance with new rapid tranquilisation guidelines within Southern Health. It should be prescribed by specialists only. Consider adding to formularies as a RED drug.

**Viridal Duo® (alprostadil) intracavernosal injection-** Supported for initiation in acute trusts due to ongoing supply problems with Caverject (note: Caverject to remain on formularies and should be continued if available for established patients). Consider adding to formularies as GREEN.

**Omeprazole oral suspension (Rosemont) 20mg in 5ml (4mg/ml)** - licensed formulation; supported for use in preference to unlicensed specials in paediatric patients unable to swallow tablets or for whom dispersible tablets are unsuitable (e.g. for smaller doses or for administration via enteral feeding tubes. N.B. lansoprazole dispersible tabs are preferred for adults with feeding tubes). Presented as a powder that requires reconstitution by a pharmacist prior to dispensing for patients (video guide available at <https://www.rosemontpharma.com/omeprazole> ). Consider adding to formularies as AMBER (Note: although a 10mg in 5ml (2mg/ml) strength is also available, 20mg in 5ml is the preferred strength locally as recommended by specialists at Southampton Children's Hospital)

**Cimetidine tablets/oral solution; nizatidine capsules; famotidine tablets** – following suspension of all ranitidine medicines in the EU, alternative H2-antagonists are supported for use when a PPI is not suitable or when an H2-antagonist is required in combination with a PPI. Consider adding to formularies as GREEN. Note: stocks of all H2 antagonists are limited so PPI's are preferred. Further information on switching patients is available at <https://www.npa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Medicine-Supply-Notification-Ranitidine.pdf> or prescribers may contact the Southampton Medicines Advice Service on 023 8120 6908/9 or email [medicinesadvice@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:medicinesadvice@uhs.nhs.uk) .

**VitA-Pos® eye ointment** - name has been changed to Hylo-Night®. There is no change to formulation. Please update formularies with this change as appropriate. Local Dry eye guidelines will be updated accordingly

Guidance documents are available [Here](#) (hosted by West Hampshire CCG)

Summarised on behalf of the District Prescribing Committee by Andrea White (Southampton City CCG)