

Medicines

Optimisation **intervention brief**

TITLE?
Prescribe metformin SR and Glucophage SR [®] tablets as Sukkarto SR [®] tablets
WHAT?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review patients who are currently prescribed metformin SR and Glucophage SR[®] tablets for efficacy and tolerability of drug, dosage and formulation. If appropriate, switch to the lower-cost branded generic product Sukkarto SR[®] tablets.
WHY?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sukkarto SR[®] is less expensive than generic forms of metformin and the branded product Glucophage SR[®]. It is available in 500mg, 750mg and 1g strength tablets and contains the same active ingredient; metformin in a prolonged-release formulation. Savings realised for WHCCG if we use Sukkarto SR[®] first-line.
WHO?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All patients currently prescribed metformin SR and Glucophage SR[®]. Modified release forms of metformin should be reserved for patients are unable to tolerate an immediate release preparation due to gastro-intestinal side-effects.
TIPS?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metformin is contraindicated in patients with GFR<30 mL/min Community pharmacies should be notified prior to making the switch to ensure stocks are available for the proposed changes.
HOW?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run the standard search on the practice clinical system to identify all patients currently prescribed metformin SR and Glucophage SR[®]. Agree with the practice process for switching patients (switch agreement). Switch all patients to the equivalent strength of Sukkarto SR[®] tablets.
SO WHAT?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release potential savings of £175, 000 per annum
FURTHER INFORMATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9562/smpc https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9563 https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/11284/smpc