Prescribing and Formulary Panel

Minutes of the meeting held on June 1st 2021 at the Oak MDT Room, PEH

Present

Geraldine O'Riordan, Prescribing Advisor and Chair (GOR)

Douglas Wilson, Queens Road Medical Practice (DW)

Paul Williams, Island Health (PH)

Janine Clarke, Pharmacy Manager, HSC (JC)

Tom Saunders, Medical Specialist Group (HD)

Peter Gomes, Medical Specialist Group (PG)

Mike McCarthy, Healthcare Group (MMC)

Apologies

Peter Gomes, Medical Specialist Group (PG), Hamish Duncan, Medical Specialist Group (HD)

Absent

Nikki Brink, States-employed Doctors and DPH (NB)

1: Minutes

The draft minutes of the May 2021 meeting were approved.

2. New Drugs

The following products were considered

- **Alendronic Acid Effervescent Tablets 70mg**

This request came via a GP from a Consultant Rheumatologist for a patient who, despite optimal treatment with DMARDs, requires frequent oral corticosteroids to control her condition. She is unable to swallow tablets. It was noted that the effervescent tablets are relatively expensive £18 per month vs 99p for generic non-effervescent 70mg tablets. There are 500 patients on generic alendronic tablets so even a small increase in numbers offered the effervescent tablets could result in large increase in costs. Crushing does not seem to be an option because the SPC warns against it. JC said that the drug costs of zolendronic acid when sourced via the NHS supply chain is far lower than the BNF list price. So, after a discussion it was agreed to decline the request and to recommend that a referral to secondary care for consideration of zolendronic acid be made.

- **Infliximab SC**

This product has been requested by the Consultant Gastroenterologist for people with IBD who have extremely difficult venous access. The drug cost is significantly higher than the biosimilar IV product.

The NHS discount is available for the SC version, but only if it is dispensed in the hospital. JC raised the complexities of managing the use of a large number of new biologics for IBD, Rheumatology and Dermatology. However TAs for the new products are very specific and are often only recommended when first line products have been trialled and have not been successful and are subject to stopping rules. GOR said that prescribers have been advised on several occasions that the TA criteria for new drugs must be satisfied precisely.

After a discussion it was agreed to recommend this new formulation for addition to the Prescribing List for people who have documented severe difficulties with venous access and for PEH pharmacy dispensing only.

Actions: GOR

2. Matters Arising

New NICE TA drugs

Noted by members.

3. Any other business

None

4: Date of next meeting: Tuesday July 13th 2021 at 5pm in the Oak MDT Room, Princess Elizabeth Hospital