

Prescribing and Formulary Panel

Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022, 17:00 – 17:28, Oak MDT Room

Attendees:

Geraldine O’Riordan, Prescribing Advisor (Chair)
Andrew Ward, Hospital Pharmacy Services Manager
Paul Williams, Island Health Medical Practice
Douglas Wilson, Queens Road Medical Practice
Peter Gomes, Medical Specialist Group
Mike McCarthy, Healthcare Group
Tom Saunders, Medical Specialist Group
Kerry Lowe, Executive Assistant, HSC (minutes)

1. Welcome and apologies

GOR welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Beverley Hall.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2022

GOR advised that BH had made a minor amendment to the minutes in relation to the wording surrounding avian influenza. The change was approved alongside the rest of the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. New drugs

A review paper for the use of Dexcom 1 sensors was considered. It was noted that the sensors were recommended by NICE and SMC and, Dr Kate Allen, the requesting doctor, wished to have access to the full range of new technologies available for diabetes, the details of which were listed on the review paper.

Regarding costs, GOR advised that the currently available Freestyle Libre and FreeStyle Libre 2 models cost £70 for 30 days and the Dexcom 1 would cost £75 for 30 days. GOR advised that she recommended the approval of the product in line with the NICE guidelines. Members agreed that the product should be approved and conversations with Clare Betteridge, the Lead Paediatrician for Diabetes, would take place to ensure that the guidelines were clear.

4. Minor and/or cost-neutral additions or changes to the Prescribing List or the Hospital Formulary were approved as follows:

Desmopressin 25 micrograms, 10 micrograms oral lyophilisate, a licensed product for nocturnal enuresis costing £15 for 30 tablets had been requested by Mr Cole. GOR noted

that higher strengths of generic tablets were already available, with the cost between £26 and £200 for 30 tablets.

Liquid Paraffin/White Soft Paraffin was noted as being available as branded 'Pure Health' or 'Aquaderm', costing approximately £3 per 500g of product. GOR advised that there were alternative products which were considerably more expensive already available. GOR recommended specifying 'Pure Health or Aquaderm' on prescriptions, and when SwitchScript was operational again, other, more expensive products, could be added to the disallowed list.

GOR advised that Aquacel Ag was being discontinued and would be removed from the Drug Tariff in December 2022 and would be replaced by Aquacel AG + Extra, which was cost-neutral.

5. New NICE TAs

GOR reported that there were no new NICE TAs for approval, though a significant number would follow in January 2023.

6. Guidelines for update

GOR reported that £80,000 had been saved following the change to better-value test strips and the reduced use of them. GOR advised that she had passed this information on to the Diabetes team but had not received any comments from them.

GOR advised that there was no cost to HSC for obtaining the machines and MM, PW and AW discussed the possibility of distributing test machines from the doctors' surgeries to alleviate pressure on the under-staffed Diabetes team. GOR raised that distribution via the surgeries could be an option, though the resources to co-ordinate distribution would have to be found.

GOR agreed to contact the Diabetes team to ensure that the information that had previously been provided was still accurate, and the matter would be raised again at the January meeting.

GOR spoke to the paper entitled '2022 update prescribing of anticoagulants in Atrial Fibrillation in Guernsey and Alderney'. GOR reported that there had been some changes to the NICE guidelines and that Edoxaban was the first non-valvular anticoagulant for people with Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation (NVAF) in the community.

GOR distributed the paper entitled 'deployment of Covid treatments for highest-risk non-hospitalised patients' and highlighted the need to arrange collection of any prescribed

drugs, due to availability and resource issues. GOR agreed to make the ensure the content was clear and user-friendly before distributing the document.

TS joined the meeting at 17:23.

7. New Non-Medical Prescribers

GOR included the list of new non-medical prescribers within the meeting pack, circulated prior to the meeting, noting that the new NMPs no longer needed to be signed off after their training had been completed.

8. AOB

AW advised that diamorphine was unavailable but suitable alternatives had been sourced.

AW reported that Dr Michelle Le Cheminant had sought a license extension for dexmedetomidine.

The meeting closed at 17:28.