



Covid-19

Medicines Management Newsletter - No.1

Warfarin to DOAC prescribing

Practices are asked to review patients prescribed warfarin and switch to a DOAC, where appropriate. This will lower the pressure on the NHS for the required blood tests and will lessen footfall of patients into the hospital.

Gonadorelins

We encourage all practices to switch from three-monthly goserelin (Zoladex®) implants and triptorelin (Decapeptyl®) injections to six-monthly Decapeptyl injections. This is a temporary change which aims to reduce pressure on practices from patients attending the surgery.

Paracetamol supply

Due to the recent developments, a number of outlets including community pharmacies have reportedly run out of paracetamol. There is assurance on a national level that there are no shortages or issues within the supply chain and it is expected that normal supply will continue and stocks will be replenished. Prescribers are asked to only prescribe paracetamol for patients with chronic pain requiring regular paracetamol. If required patients can be directed to the CCG PALS department who can be contacted on **0800 328 7624**

28-day supply

Practices are asked to continue to follow WSCCG's 28-day Prescribing Policy to ensure the continued supply of medicines within the local healthcare system. This will allow the wholesalers and existing supply chains to manage their stock accordingly, to meet the demands of the local population and prevent stock shortages.

ScriptSwitch

We are in the process of reviewing and updating information and safety messages on ScriptSwitch, to reflect any additional issues that may need to be considered for patients who have a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19.



integrated working

Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)

As part of the measures to help reduce the workload within primary care, practices are encouraged to adopt electronic repeat dispensing. Some of the benefits include

- Reduced footfall at the GP practice and fewer telephone calls as patients don't need to collect or order repeat prescriptions for the duration of their eRD batch
- Prescribers can authorise a batch of repeat prescriptions for up to 12 months with just one digital signature
- Pharmacists/dispensers are mandated to ask patients if they require all items on their prescription before each issue, to avoid medicines wastage
- eRD puts the prescriber in control rather than allowing the patient or dispenser to continue re-ordering unnecessary items, which leads to oversupply and stockpiling

For further information please click [here](#).

DMARDS

Click [here](#) for advice from the British Society for Rheumatology for patients prescribed DMARDS

NHS England

NHS England will be setting up a specific medicines advice line in the coming days and we will share a link to this when it becomes available.