

New Year—New Website www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk

The Joint Formulary Committee are very proud to announce the launch of the new Plymouth Area Joint Formulary website.

Toucan Design Company of Exeter have worked well with us and very quickly understood what was required. A very big thank you to all those who have helped by giving comments and views on the work as it has progressed. The new website is much improved from the old one, with a search facility to help you navigate around.

The website can be accessed from anywhere and has been designed light enough to be accessed via a mobile phone.

As you are aware the Joint Formulary is a constantly changing and evolving tool. For the most up to date formulary the website is the place to go.

The book format of the formulary rapidly becomes out of date and we have always been constrained by space for the information that can be included. With the website this is not so and will be able to expand what is included. The different pages of the website can easily be printed as aide memoirs for the sections appropriate to you. We will be looking to produce another book but its format will be reduced, with the main information now being available online.

As with all aspects of the formulary, please let us know what you think and if you have any comments or suggestions for improvements.



Changes to the blood glucose testing strips in the formulary

Due to the short expiry date on some of the blood glucose testing strips in the formulary we were asked to make some minor changes and highlight the length of expiry of the different products.

Contour[®] (previously known as Ascensia Microfil[®]), **Optium[®] Plus**, and **Aviva[®]** are the first-line strips. After opening these can be used until the expiry date on the pack (typically 18 months)

One Touch Ultra[®] remains as the second-line choice. After opening these can be used until the expiry date on the pack (typically 3 months)

Advance Performa[®] is for use in hospital only.

For patients with Type 2 diabetes testing only infrequently, please consider recommending meters using the test strips listed above with longer expiry dates after opening. This will reduce the amount of waste and ensure patient safety around using strips before the expiry date.

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Remember, for the most up to date Formulary: www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk

NICE Guidance 182: Prasugrel for the treatment of acute coronary syndromes with percutaneous coronary intervention

It has been agreed that Prasugrel may be prescribed in line with NICE with the addition of a small number of patients intolerant/allergic to clopidogrel. This is defined as patients who demonstrate a skin reaction such as rash or pruritus on clopidogrel. This group of patients will be very small, between 2 and 10 a year and probably nearer 2 patients a year.

Prasugrel in combination with aspirin is recommended as an option for preventing atherothrombotic events in people with acute coronary syndromes having percutaneous coronary intervention, only when:

- immediate primary percutaneous coronary intervention for ST-segment-elevation myocardial infarction is necessary **or**
- stent thrombosis has occurred during clopidogrel treatment **or**
- the patient has diabetes mellitus, defined as patients taking oral or injectable treatment for diabetes.

Treatment with prasugrel will continue for 12 months for all groups in line with NICE guidance. Patients will receive their first month's treatment from Derriford, prescribed by a cardiologist, followed by 11 months treatment from their GP. The treatment is then to be stopped.

Prasugrel must only be initiated by cardiology

Chapter 4 Central Nervous System—review of the mental health section

This section has been reviewed, thank you to all those who made review comments and to the members of the working group. Particular thanks to Steve Cooke & Deb Reeve. The up to date chapter can be found on the website www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk. The main changes have occurred in the Appendices as these needed updating in line with recent NICE guidance, in particular the guidance on Schizophrenia. We have also included a separate appendix for the treatment of children and adolescents.

MHRA Drug Safety Update

The formulary has been updated to reflect the following:

- **Colchicine:** reminder on risk of serious and fatal toxicity in overdose. Patients at particular risk of toxicity are those with renal or hepatic impairment, gastrointestinal or cardiac disease, and patients at extremes of age. The symptoms of overdose are often delayed. All patients, even in the absence of early symptoms, should be referred for immediate medical assessment.
- **Bisphosphonates: osteonecrosis of the jaw:** The risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw is greater for patients receiving intravenous bisphosphonates for cancer than for patients receiving oral bisphosphonates for osteoporosis or Paget's disease. All patients with cancer should have a dental check-up before bisphosphonate treatment. During treatment, patients should be encouraged to: maintain good oral hygiene; receive routine dental check-ups; and report any oral symptoms such as dental mobility, pain, or swelling.