

Joint Formulary News

October 2009

Effective Prescribing in the Plymouth Health Community

Plymouth Area Joint Formulary statement on the use of generic clopidogrel

The place of generic clopidogrel was discussed at the Plymouth Area Joint Formulary Group meeting on the 8th September. The following points were agreed by the group:

- Both the currently available forms of generic clopidogrel (clopidogrel hydrochloride and clopidogrel besilate) are licensed in the UK for the prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients suffering from myocardial infarction, ischaemic stroke or established peripheral arterial disease, as is the originator clopidogrel product, Plavix[®] (clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate).
- That with regards to bioequivalence, in clinical practice the generic and brand leader product are interchangeable in clinical practice.
- The specific indication of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) has more recently been granted to Sanofi[®] and is 'restricted' to branded Plavix[®] for a period of time in the UK. The Plymouth Area Joint Formulary Group believe that the use of clopidogrel in ACS is no different to its antiplatelet activity in stable vascular disease and support the use of generic clopidogrel for all indications as is operational on the continent.
- It is recognised that use in ACS is technically 'off-label' in the UK but the PAJF Group believes there is no evidence of added risk to patients as a result of prescribing clopidogrel generically for all indications. A similar position is held by the cardiologists at Derriford Hospital.
- The message of '**generic clopidogrel for all indications**' is less complicated for prescribers, dispensers and patients alike and will result in significant savings in the future as the Drug Tariff price of generic clopidogrel falls.



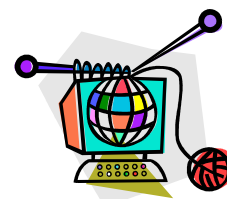
This statement serves to provide evidence of local 'peer opinion' support for prescribers who wish to prescribe generic clopidogrel for all indications but have concerns about 'off-label' prescribing in ACS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Fay'.

Dr Danny Fay, Chair, Plymouth Area Joint Formulary

PAJF Website update

We are moving ahead with our new website and will soon require some constructive feedback on a prototype site from a variety of users and potential users. You do not have to have any particular IT skills, we need to know how clinicians and other users want to use the site.



On the 22nd October we are holding a session with our designers to enable us to give feedback on the prototype. If you would like to be involved in this please email pajf@nhs.net by the 19th October and we will then send you further details and the link to access the site, when live.

Even if you are unable to make the session we can send you the link and you can then send any feedback and comments.

Please do take this opportunity, we need feedback from all groups of users both primary and secondary care, nurses, GPs, consultants, junior doctors, pharmacy staff, otherwise the website may not meet the needs and/or expectations you may have of our site.

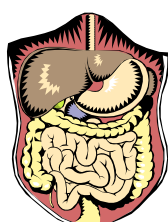
Lidocaine 5% medicated plasters

- **Lidocaine plasters** have now been re-categorised to a specialist initiated drug, to enable GPs to continue prescribing. Within the Management of Neuropathic Pain guidance they are one of the treatments that can be used after 1st, 2nd and 3rd line treatments have been tried.
- We need to remind prescribers that Lidocaine plasters are licensed **only** for post-hepatic neuralgia.
 - Apply one plaster once daily for up to 12 hours followed by a 12 hour plaster-free period. The plaster may be cut to size if necessary. Up to 3 plasters may be used to cover large areas.
 - Patients should be reviewed in the pain clinic 1 month after initiation where the patch will be discontinued if ineffective. Patients who continue should be reviewed at 6 monthly intervals by the GP. Lidocaine plasters can result in gradual desensitisation of the nerves and hence result in improvement in symptoms. The plaster may be



Chapter 1 Gastrointestinal Review

Chapter 1 of the formulary has been reviewed and the updated chapter is available on the website www.plymouthpct.nhs.uk/professionalzone/pajf/. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in review comments.



Amongst the changes are some revised guidelines for the management of constipation in adults and information on chronic bowel disorders.