

Joint Formulary News

February 2010

Effective Prescribing in the Plymouth Health Community



Losartan- a cost effective angiotensin-II receptor antagonist (A2RA) for new hypertension patients

At the February Joint Formulary meeting losartan was approved for inclusion as a very cost effective treatment option for new initiation of an A2RA in hypertension. Candesartan remains the preferred licensed A2RA for patients with heart failure, irbesartan is the choice in diabetic nephropathy and valsartan advised post MI.

Could we remind prescribers that, for all the above indications, an ACE-I should be considered first line and an A2RA prescribed only if there are problems with tolerability such as ACE cough. As the first A2RA to come off patent, generic losartan is now typically 85% less expensive than other A2RAs.



The February Drug Tariff price of generic losartan tablets is:
Losartan tablets 25mg £1.64 / 28 days
Losartan tablets 50mg £1.54 / 28 days
Losartan tablets 100mg £1.74 / 28 days

Website v Book

Thank you to all those who sent us your preferences for a paper formulary or just web-based. From the opinions expressed that a web-based formulary is the best way to keep up to date, it has been decided not to produce another book format in the near future. If you have a strong feeling that we should consider a new book please do let us know. It was commented that.....'although the book may be more accessible, from a drugs governance point of view clinicians should rely on the website'. Could we also remind you that the last (Red) copy of the formulary book is now over 2 years old and is very out of date. Please could you remove these copies from circulation, recycling them where possible.



Recent updates to the Plymouth Area Joint Formulary

Cyclophosphamide Shared Care Information 	This has been produced and it can be found here: www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk/Shared-care-information-on-the-prescribing-of-cyclophosphamide/
Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines	These have now been updated and can be found here: www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk/Primary-Care-Antimicrobial-Guidelines/
NICE Guideline 108 – Chronic heart failure	Appendix 2 of Chapter 2 has been updated to reflect this NICE guideline issued in August. It can be found here: www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk
Enoxaparin dosing, guidance for Treating PE/DVT 	This dosing guidance has been updated in the Shared Care Information for Enoxaparin: www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk/Shared-care-information-on-the-prescribing-of-enoxaparin/
Rigevidon	This is an equivalent product to Microgynon 30. The cost is less than for Microgynon 30.
Mirtazepine Liquid 15mg/ml	This has been added for use in patients using an enteral feeding tube. The cost of this preparation is significantly higher than tablets.
Mitomycin 10mg, 20mg, 40mg vials	These additional sizes of vial have been added