

Joint Formulary News

November 2010

Effective Prescribing in the Plymouth
Health Community



Change from Durogesic DTrans[®] to Matrifen[®] Prescribe all Fentanyl products by brand

The formulary brand for Fentanyl patches has changed to **Matrifen[®]** from Durogesic DTrans[®]. **Matrifen[®]** is significantly less expensive than Durogesic DTrans[®], giving a saving of 23% across all strengths. For example for a pack of 5 x 50 microgram per hour patches gives a saving of £10.74. **So, please prescribe by brand—Matrifen[®].** Not prescribing by brand may be detrimental to continuity of patient care. Failure to prescribe **Matrifen[®]** will result in the potential maximum savings of approximately £70K not being realised.

Please could we remind you of the advice in the formulary

- Prescribers should ensure that patients and/or their carers are aware that 72-hour (three-day) patches need to be applied at appropriate intervals to ensure that patients are not left in pain (because of too long an interval) and that the patches are not used wastefully (because of too short an interval). Remember to remove the used patch.
- **Matrifen[®]** patches are only licensed for chronic intractable pain and are mainly used in palliative care and by consultants for treatment of chronic pain. They are expensive but there is a small group of patients in whom their use is justifiable and appropriate. They are not licensed for acute pain.

Oral fentanyl preparations:

There are two oral fentanyl preparations included in the formulary, these are **Actiq[®]** (buccal) lozenges and **Effentora[®]** (buccal) tablets. These are licensed for breakthrough pain in patients receiving opioid therapy for chronic cancer pain. To avoid confusion and to ensure continuity it is important that these are also **prescribed by brand**.

The advice in the formulary states:

- Patients must be assessed by the palliative care or pain team before commencing treatment with **Actiq[®]** lozenges or **Effentora[®]** buccal tablets. They should be used in the minority of patients with breakthrough pain that fail immediate release morphine or oxycodone. Patients must be reviewed weekly.
- The dose of **Effentora[®]** is not interchangeable with **Actiq[®]**.

Shared care monitoring crib sheet

As an aide memoir, we have produced the attached monitoring crib sheet for the Shared Care information in the Plymouth Area Joint Formulary. Please feel free to print this for ease of use, it can also be downloaded from the website:

www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk/includes/documents/Shared-care-PCare-crib-sheet.pdf

Recent updates to the Plymouth Area Joint Formulary	
Nexplanon[®] (specialist initiated)	This is a name change from Implanon [®] , it also has a different application system
Dovobet[®] Gel (second-line)	This is to replace Xamiol [®] Gel, which has been removed. Dovobet [®] Gel is for scalp and body use.
Denosumab[®] (specialist initiated)	This has been added in line with the NICE Guidance TAG 204 for the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women.
Adcal[®] D3 Dissolve and Calcichew[®] D3 500mg/400iu Caplets (first-line)	These have been added to give alternative preparations for those patients who find chewing Adcal [®] D3 and Calcichew [®] D3 Forte a problem.
Calceos[®] (first-line)	This has been added as a lower cost alternative to Calcichew [®] D3 Forte and Adcal [®] D3.

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