

### Derbyshire Joint Area Prescribing Committee (JAPC)

This is a countywide group covering NHS North Derbyshire, South Derbyshire, Hardwick and Erewash clinical commissioning groups, Derbyshire Community Health Services Trust, Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Derby and Chesterfield Royal Hospitals. It provides recommendations on the prescribing and commissioning of drugs. See <http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/home>

#### KEY MESSAGES FROM THE JAPC OCTOBER 2013 MEETING

##### PATIENT GROUP DIRECTIONS ([LINK](#))

The area teams are responsible for the authorisation of vaccination and immunisation PGDs. Over a period of time local vaccination and immunisation PGDs will be replaced by nationally produced ones and appear in a different format but will continue to be hosted on our website so that practices can easily access them. New/ updated PGDs:

- Seasonal influenza in adults
- Fluenz- influenza nasal vaccine for infants, children and adolescents aged 2-17 years

##### SHARED CARE ([LINK](#))

- Lithium- updated with advice to GPs on changes to the monitoring for signs and symptoms in cardiac functioning.

##### MELATONIN

Last month JAPC agreed to Circadin MR Tablets (off-label) as the first line melatonin choice for new patients for the treatment of sleep disorders in children with neurodevelopmental disorders. The limited evidence supporting unlicensed melatonin preparations often as a 'special' and significant cost to the NHS could not be justified for routine prescribing in primary care. Unlicensed melatonin preparations are now no longer under shared care. All of the unlicensed preparations are classified as **RED**. Patients on unlicensed melatonin should be reviewed at the next opportune appointment and considered for the licensed Circadin MR. The supporting document for prescribing the licensed form Circadin can be found [here](#).

##### INSULIN DEGLUDEC UPDATE- THREE TIMES WEEKLY

Last month JAPC agreed to the prescribing of insulin degludec in two small defined cohorts of patients; patients receiving high doses of insulin (>150 units/day) and patients experiencing hypoglycaemia despite the use of a long acting insulin and are being considered for an insulin pump. A recent Lancet article reviewed the effect of insulin degludec using a three times a week dosing based on its long duration of action. The results showed inferior glycaemic control and increased risk of hypoglycaemia with insulin degludec three times a week compared to insulin glargine. JAPC noted this study in anticipation of requests being made by clinicians to consider degludec prescribing to reduce nursing staff visiting housebound patients requiring insulin and did not recommend this use.

##### NEW PRODUCT- EMUSTIL (SOYBEAN EYE DROPS) **BLACK**

Dry eye is a common collective term to describe both aqueous deficient and evaporative dry eye conditions. Emustil has been launched to treat specifically the more common of the two, evaporative dry eyes. There is limited high level evidence and comparative studies to suggest one preparation is superior to another. Some eye drops are classed as medical devices. Medical devices do not require clinical trials to be performed they only have to demonstrate safety to be launched. Prescribers should refer to our [eye chapter](#) of preferred choices. Emustil is not recommended or commissioned in Derbyshire.

##### NEW PRODUCT- MOLLUDAB (5% POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE) **RED**

Molludab is a new product launched for the treatment of molluscum contagiosum (MC). JAPC considered the limited evidence base around MC treatments, self-limiting nature of the condition and its high prevalence. JAPC classified it as **RED** specialist prescribing and hospital only with the exception of GPSIs and dermatology champions where referral is being considered. Referrals of MC patients are normally for HIV positive patients with extensive lesions, eye lid-margin or ocular lesions and adults with anogenital lesions indications for which molludab must not be used. Molludab is available to patients wishing to purchase this over the counter at RRP £23.49

##### LISDEXAMFETAMINE **RED**

Lisdexamfetamine is a pro-drug that is converted to dexamfetamine in the CNS and is licensed for ADHD in children aged 6 and over when response to methylphenidate is clinically inadequate. It has been classified as **RED** pending an update to the ADHD shared care agreements. Patient advantages are that it is a once daily dosing regimen and the added option of administration (contents can also be dissolved in water and swallowed as a liquid). The theoretical benefits of reduced abuse potential has not been clearly shown, longer studies and an evaluation from clinical practice are needed.

##### GENDER SERVICES UPDATE

Gender services are commissioned by specialised services and it is envisaged that there will a national consistent approach to treatment and access across England. A policy yet to be approved by NHS England is expected by the end of this year. Within this expected treatment pathway GPs will be requested to prescribe hormonal treatments in an off-licence way. Clinicians in the meantime for new or existing prescribing of hormonal drugs relating to gender reassignment should familiarise themselves with the monitoring requirements to ensure safe prescribing by using the NHS Scotland protocol [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2012\\_26.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2012_26.pdf)

Drug	BNF	Date considered	Decision	Details
Sildenafil chewable tablets	7.4	October 2013	<b>Brown</b>	Chewable / orodispersible formulations are not 1 <sup>st</sup> line PDE5 inhibitors
Tramadol	4.7	October 2013	<b>Green</b>	As per neuropathic and non-malignant chronic pain guideline
Nefopam	4.7	October 2013	<b>Green (3<sup>rd</sup> line)</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> line treatment in step 2 for the management of chronic non-malignant pain (see local guideline)
Renavit	A2.4	October 2013	<b>Green on specialist recommendation</b>	Once daily multivitamin for haemodialysis patients. ACBS approved- Food for Special Medical Purposes
Apixaban	2.8	September 2013	<b>Green (2<sup>nd</sup> line in AF)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> line New Oral Anticoagulant after rivaroxaban.
Molludab (5% potassium hydroxide solution)	Not listed	October 2013	<b>Red (includes GPSI and dermatology champions)</b>	Used in the treatment of molluscum contagiosum
Emustil (soybean eye drops)	11.8	October 2013	<b>Black</b>	Not a cost effective option compared to other treatments to treat dry eye
Crizotinib	8.1	October 2013	<b>Black</b>	As per NICE TA 296 for lung cancer
Lisdexamfetamine	4.4	October 2013	<b>Red</b>	Red pending an update to the ADHD shared care agreements

**RED** drugs are those where prescribing responsibility lies with a hospital consultant or a specialist.  
**AMBER** drugs are those that although usually initiated within a hospital setting, could appropriately become the responsibility of the GP, under a shared care agreement.  
**GREEN** drugs are regarded as suitable for primary care prescribing.  
**BROWN** drugs are those that JAPC does not recommend for use, except in exceptional circumstances, due to lack of data on safety, effectiveness, and/or cost-effectiveness.  
**BLACK** drugs are not recommended or commissioned

#### Derbyshire Medicines Management, Prescribing and Guidelines website

This website is the first port of call for information on local NHS decisions and guidance on medicines use. It includes: local prescribing formularies, JAPC decisions, traffic lights, shared care guidelines, medicines guidelines, newsletters, controlled drug resources, and other medicines management resources. The site improves upon previous sites in several ways. It is faster, more reliable, has its own search engine, and it is easier to find information. Content is constantly being updated and you can sign up for e-mail alerts to keep you up to date.