Newsletter

Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

>> ***February 2014***

Introduction

Following the APC meeting held on 23rd January 2014, there will be some updates to the regional Prescribing Formulary. These updates will include a 'traffic light' system where a clear colour code will be utilised. Green will be used to define medicines that can be prescribed in either primary or secondary care settings, amber will define medicines that should be hospital initiated, but subject to agreements can be continued by primary care and red will segregate medicines to be prescribed and monitored exclusively by a hospital specialist. There will be a fourth, grey category used to outline a small number of medicines which are either not commissioned or are subject to imposed conditions. Keep a lookout for these changes. Constructive feedback is welcome.

New Patient Treatments

In January, two new treatments were added to the Formulary. These are:

Diltiazem 2% cream (30g tubes) in Chapter 1.7.4. This cream is another step in the treatment pathway for anal fissures before specialist referral. This can be used after laxatives, fibre products and topical lidocaine type anaesthetics have been tried. If symptoms are not adequately controlled, the patient may try glycerol trinitrate ointment (Rectogesic), then, at this stage, diltiazem cream may be used. The advantages are that this cream has in many NHS Evidence studies been shown to be affective and would provide another step prior to using botulinum toxin (Botox). Diltiazem 2% cream is listed in section VIIIB of the Drug Tariff with a current price of £83.63. At current prices, the cream is less expensive than ointment. See the following link for further information:

http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Anal-fissure/Pages/Treatment.aspx

Mydriasert ocular inserts in Chapter 11.5. These are to be used in secondary care as a preoperative treatment to obtain mydrias. The expectation is that this will lead to better quality outcomes for the patient. Mydriasert are ocular implants containing the active ingredients phenylephrine hydrochloride 5.4mg and tropicamide 280micrograms.

The Prescribing Formulary and related information can be found here:
www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk.