



Newsletter



Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

October 2014

New Formulary Medicines

Hylo-Tear, Hylo-Forte and VitA-POS are ocular lubricants that have been added to the Northern Lincolnshire Prescribing Formulary in Chapter 11.8.1. Hylo-Tear and Hylo-Forte are solutions for dry eye, which contain sodium hyaluronate 0.1% and 0.2% respectively. Hylo-Tear, unlike standard eye drops, does not have to be discarded until 6 months from first use (providing the product expiry date has not been exceeded). This means that these sterile, preservative free drops can be used in similar situations to unit dose preparations including Celluvisc. Hylo-Tear and Hylo-Forte can be used in patients wearing all common types of contact lenses. The current Drug Tariff prices for Hylo-Tear and Hylo-Forte are £8.50 and £9.50 per 10 ml. VitA-POS is a viscous ocular lubricant that can be used in similar patients to those who would be suitable for Lacri-Lube. VitA-POS contains retinol palimate, together with white soft paraffin, light liquid paraffin, liquid paraffin and wool fat. The current Drug Tariff price for 5g of VitA-POS eye ointment is £2.75.

DuoResp Spiromax has been added to the Formulary in Chapter 3.2. This is a dry powder inhaler (DPI) in a device that is aesthetically similar to an Easi-Breath metered dose inhaler (MDI). DuoResp contains budesonide and formoterol and is therefore medically equivalent to Symbicort, but in a different DPI device. DuoResp is labelled as the delivered dose, which is now standard for all newly developed respiratory medicines. Symbicort is labelled using the historical meter dose strengths. This means that the dose in a DuoResp Spiromax 160/4.5 is equivalent to Symbicort 200/6 and DuoResp Spiromax 320/9 is equivalent to Symbicort 400/12. The inhalation rates and dosage instructions for all these devices are very similar. The Spiromax device can be primed upside-down, unlike the Turbohaler, but there are no other obvious differences or advantages. DuoResp Spiromax has a Drug Tariff price of £29.97 for both strengths. The APC Asthma and COPD Pathways will be updated in Q1 2015/16. There are several new products and clinicians are recommended to familiarise themselves with new developments, including new ICS+LABA and LABA+LAMA combination devices. Many recent products have dosage regimens that are different to historical asthma and COPD treatments. For example, Relvar Ellipta has a once daily dosage regime.

Please refer to the APC Formulary and relevant pathways for further information.

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