Newsletter

Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

>> ***January 2013***

Introduction

The Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee (APC) looks forward to 2013 and will strive to make this year, the year that many improvements are made within prescribing and care for all patients in this region. There have already been changes including the introduction of a shared care system that will allow patients with certain conditions to be cared for seamlessly by every group and individual involved in their care. New medicines have also been added to the local Formulary meaning that patients have access to a greater number of life enhancing treatments.

New Patient Treatments

Quinagolide is a medicine that is used in some patients to treat hyperprolactinaemia, which is the presence of high levels of a hormone called prolactin. High levels of prolactin can cause several problems in both men and women, including infertility. There are similar medicines available, but this new addition to the Formulary assists the treatment of patients that may otherwise be sensitive to existing medicines.

Glycopyrronium bromide tablets have been added to the local Formulary for use specifically in children with cerebral palsy. This condition leads to several symptoms that can be distressing and uncomfortable for the patient, including excess salivation. Glycopyrronium bromide tablets are a safe and effective treatment for this and are a way that several symptoms can be controlled when medicines used in the first instance, such as hyoscine patches, are not suitable for the individual or are not providing adequate control.

Dovobet Gel has been added to the local Formulary as an extended treatment option for psoriasis when other preparations including coal tar and coconut oil formulations have not been completely successful. The maximum duration of use for Dovobet Gel is 4-6 weeks and other medicaments such as coconut oil and coal tar based products must be used for at least 2 months in-between Dovobet Gel treatment courses. This is because Dovobet contains a topical corticosteroid that is most efficacious when applied in short durations rather than used continually.

KleanPrep is a vanilla flavour laxative medicine that has been added to the local Formulary. This will tend only to be used in a hospital environment when bowel cleansing is required before certain screening and examinations can be conducted. Keep up to date with the APC online by visiting www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk.