



Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

>>>>>>> March 2013

## Introduction

The Area Prescribing Committee for Northern Lincolnshire continues to promote quality treatments for the patents in this region. Several new medicines have been added to the region's Prescribing Formulary, which expands the options that clinicians have in the successful treatment of conditions.

More than medical discussions take place at the APC. A review of devices occurs to ensure that the best treatment options are available. A common condition is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). During the next few weeks, medicines to treat this condition will be discussed in detail and head to head data analysed to ensure that the best possible patient outcomes are achieved. Inhaler devices used to treat this condition vary greatly and it is essential that patients get the best possible delivery of their medication. Factors such as ease of use of the inhaler device and lung deposition of the medicinal product are carefully analysed by respiratory specialists, advanced clinical pharmacists, GPs and members of the public.

## **New Patient Treatments**

Bimatoprost 0.1mg/ml (0.01%) eye drops have been added to the treatment pathway for patients with glaucoma. This medicine will be prescribed when a patient displays clinical signs of intolerance to latanoprost 0.05mg/ml eye drops, which is considered a first line treatment by specialists in Northern Lincolnshire. The brand name for bimatoprost eye drops is Lumigan. There are two strengths of Lumigan available, 0.1mg/ml and 0.3mg/ml. The higher strength (0.3mg/ml) is prescribed when latanoprost eye drops do not reduce intra-ocular pressure in a sufficient manner.

Rivaroxaban has been added to the Formulary. This is an oral anticoagulant. Rivaroxaban tablets (brand name Xarelto) will be used as a potential therapy for patients diagnosed with a deep vein thrombosis (DVT). There are other potential indications for this medicine, which in the future will be evaluated by the APC to ensure that the most effective treatment options are always available.

Methylprednisolone 100mg tablets have been discussed at the APC. These were an existing treatment option for patients in this region, but the use of this medicine has been widened to include a preoperative oral administration for patients undergoing certain specialised ophthalmic procedures.

Keep up to date with the APC online by visiting www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk.