APC Newsletter

NHS

Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

>> ***November 2013***

Introduction

The APC met on 24th October and discussed several key topics affecting the Northern Lincolnshire healthcare community. The APC has been functioning for just over a year. During this period, there have been significant advancements in terms of medicine availability and improved transition between local healthcare services. The next stage is to develop shared care that allows patients to have a more efficient 'healthcare journey' whilst maintaining the highest quality of care. Individual conditions will be systematically assessed and clinicians with relevant expertise will discuss clinical pathways that form the basis of arrangements for certain groups of patients. The first guidelines are likely to relate to rheumatology and in particular DMARDs. Clinicians with an interest in this area are invited for initial discussions and should contact the APC Secretary on 07780 811118 in the first instance.

New Patient Treatments

Fidaxomicin 200mg tablets have been added to Formulary Chapter 5.1.7. The brand name for these tablets is Dificlir. Fidaxomicin is used to treat patients infected with Clostridium difficile. These will be used in a secondary care setting and initiated by a Consultant Microbiologist. The dosage regime for Clostridium difficile infections is 200mg twice daily (ideally 12 hours between doses) for 10 days.

Testosterone 2% topical gel has been added to Formulary Chapter 6.4.2. The brand name for this gel is Tostran. This is a 2% gel unlike most of the other topical preparations, which are 1% in the main. This gel is supplied in a canister that provides metered actuations delivering 10mg of testosterone. Topical testosterone preparations are commonly used to treat hypogonadism due to testosterone deficiency in adult males. The usual staring dose is an application of 60mg testosterone (3g of gel/6 actuations) once daily.

Fibrin sealant (Tisseel) has been added to Formulary Chapter 11.8.2. This will be used in a hospital setting during ophthalmic procedures where a fibrin tissue glue would reduce the need for suturing.

Aflibercept injection (Eylea) has been added to Formulary Chapter 11.8.2. This will be used to treat wet age-related macular degeneration as per NICE TA294.

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