



Newsletter



Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

October 2013

Introduction

The APC met on 26th September and discussed several key topics affecting the Northern Lincolnshire healthcare community. Discussions included the revision of an antimicrobial quick reference guide, which will be published soon.

Recent MHRA safety updates have been highlighted. These include changes regarding the use of codeine. Recent updates indicate that codeine should not be prescribed for patients less than 12 years of age. Latest safety updates can be found here: <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/DrugSafetyUpdate/index.htm>

Due to several advancements in diabetes care, such as the new DPP4 inhibitor linagliptin and the availability of dapagliflozin (a first in class SGLT2), a new treatment pathway is being constructed. This will be imminently published and is likely to be an excellent reference for both primary and secondary care clinicians. Linagliptin, unlike other DPP4 inhibitors does not require dosage adjustment in patients with renal impairment.

New Patient Treatments

Dexmedetomidine 100micrograms/ml injection has been added to the Formulary in Chapter 15.1.4.4. Dexmedetomidine is for sedation of adult ICU patients requiring a sedation level not deeper than arousal in response to verbal stimulation (corresponding to Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale (RASS) 0 to - 3). This has been added as a partial replacement for clonidine and will only be prescribed in hospital.

Nationally up to 20% of a hospital's budget is swallowed by Intensive Care Units and similar services. This demonstrates the essential nature of having the most up-to-date treatments available to these areas of critical care.

The APC would like to make Northern Lincolnshire one of the most progressive areas in terms of healthcare developments. Part of this involves the adoption of new treatment regimes. Medicines can be requested from primary and secondary care prescribers and the application system is very simple. Keep up to date by visiting the Northern Lincolnshire APC online: www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk.