

PRESCRIBING FOCUS

May 2024

Coventry and Warwickshire APC netFormulary Change Removal of Specialist Initiated Drug Checklists (SIDCs) for DOACs

At the January Area Prescribing Committee (APC) meeting, the committee decided to remove the specialist-initiated drug checklists for the Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): **Apixaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban and Rivaroxaban**, simplifying the initiation of DOACs and streamlining the process for all healthcare providers.

Therefore, there is **no longer a requirement for a specialist-initiated drug checklist** to be completed for patients initiated on DOACs. However, secondary care prescribers initiating DOACs should include the indication for DOAC, patient weight, and creatinine clearance on any clinic or discharge letters.

To support primary care prescribers when initiating DOACs for **prophylaxis of stroke and systemic embolism in non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation**, the guidance document: **'Direct Oral Anticoagulation Guidance in NVAF' [CG044]** has been published on the APC netFormulary website.

NEW APC FORMULARY STATUS ASSIGNED	
Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation (Previous status Specialist Advised with completion of SIDC)	
Apixaban and Edoxaban	Preferred
Dabigatran and Rivaroxaban	Second Line
Treatment and Secondary Prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism (Previous status Specialist Advised with completion of SIDC)	
Apixaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban and Rivaroxaban	Specialist Initiated

Did You Know?.....

Prescribing incentive scheme 24/25 – Practices should sign up by the end of May 2024. Prescribers need to attend a webinar for the quality part of the scheme. A local consultant microbiologist and specialist respiratory nurse will be available at the appropriate webinars. Links to the webinars have been sent via email to practice managers or contact us for details.

Antimicrobial resistance educational webinars:
20th May 2024 12:30 – 13:30 and 3rd June 2024 13:00 – 14:00
Overuse of SABAs in Asthma educational webinars:
21st May 2024 13:00 – 14:00 and 7th June 2024 12:00 – 13:00

Warfarin and tramadol interaction – After a recent Coroner's Prevention of future deaths report from Hertfordshire, medication safety teams have been asked to raise awareness amongst prescribers and clinical teams of the little known but potentially severe interaction between tramadol and warfarin which increases the effects of warfarin [Ref 2023-0485 \(Warfarin and tramadol\) Nov 2023](#).

Laxatives – Macrogol 3350 sachets (Transisoft[®]) has been designated non-formulary by the Coventry and Warwickshire APC as they are very expensive (Over £140 for 28 sachets) compared to macrogol compound oral powder sachets NPF sugar free (£5.50 for 30 sachets). Lactulose 10g/15ml oral sachets have also been designated non-formulary as they are also more expensive than bottles of lactulose oral solution.

Medicines Advice.....

For local formulary/commissioning medicines-related queries:

Contact your designated ICB Medicines Optimisation (MO) pharmacist / pharmacy technician or the Medicines Optimisation Team at cwicb.mot@nhs.net

Other useful information sources:

The Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS)

Medicines Advice service helpline can be used by all healthcare professionals in primary care to access Medicines Information. Email queries to askspss.nhs@spss.direct or tel: 0300 770 8564.

Further details can be found below: <https://www.spss.nhs.uk/home/about-spss/get-in-touch/medicines-information-services-contact-details/>

The SPS and PrescQIPP websites (registration required for login) provide a wide range of information including evidence-based clinical guidance.

See: <https://www.spss.nhs.uk> and <https://www.precqipp.info/>

For further information, speak to your ICB MO pharmacist/pharmacy technician.