CWICB Medicines Optimisation Team Newsletter

PRESCRIBING FOCUS

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board

August 2024

Supply Issues with Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) including Creon® and Nutrizym® 22 Capsules

As detailed in the National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA/2024/007/DHSC) issued on 24th May 2024 and the Specialist Pharmacy Services Medicines (SPS) Supply Tool (registration required), **the resupply date for Nutrizym 22® gastro-resistant capsules is mid-August 2024 and for Creon® 25,000 and 10,000 capsules is 2026**. The NatPSA requests that only **one month's supply** is issued at a time to help stock distribution. The DHSC had also issued Serious Shortage Protocols for Creon 25,000 and 10,000 capsules restricting the quantity that can be provided to patients to one month's supply.

A joint societies' Position Statement includes some useful clinical advice regarding these stock shortages. Of interest within this document is the **equivalence table** on page 7 and **content of imported pancreatin products** in Appendix 4 of the Clinicians' Position Statement. Patients with Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency prescribed PERT are likely to need a change in their repeat prescriptions due to the changing availability of products. Unfortunately, this may need to be altered on each prescription depending on product availability. SPS has also produced a conversion tool to help identify equivalent and alternative products for patients currently taking any UK licensed PERT. There is also advice on the Community Pharmacy England website. This helpfully **includes links** to the websites of the specialist importers that have **confirmed they can source unlicensed preparations**.

The ICB would support practices prescribing unlicensed imports where licensed alternatives are unavailable, in line with the NatPSA/SPS advice. However, they will need to **liaise with the prospective dispenser** to confirm which products they can source. Where a prescriber wishes to prescribe a specially manufactured or imported product, an **FP10 paper prescription** will need to be issued including the words **"*Specified imported product (Special Order)*".** Practices are requested **not to refer** patients to secondary care to obtain supplies unless they usually obtain prescriptions from the hospital.

Medicines Safety
Avoiding look-alike, sound-alike (LASA) errors through safer prescribing. (PrescQIPP Bulletin 349)

PrescQIPP has produced this bulletin (May 2024) to provide "best practice" support on minimising the risk of look-alike, sound-alike (LASA) prescribing errors occurring due to similarities between medicines, which can result in patient harm.

LASA errors can occur at any stage of medication use or processes: prescribing, transcribing or documenting, ordering, dispensing, administering and monitoring. The bulletin focuses on LASA errors at the point of prescribing.

The PrescQIPP website (registration required for login) provides a wide range of information including evidence-based clinical guidance.
See: https://www.prescqipp.info/

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

Did You Know?.....

Ivermectin.

Coventry and Warwickshire APC have designated the recently **licensed Ivermectin 3mg tablets** as specialist advised for 2nd line treatment of scabies if treatment with permethrin 5% cream has failed.

Topiramate and High Potency Topical Steroids.

June's MHRA Drug Safety Update announced the introduction of a new Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP) for **topiramate.** Topiramate is now contraindicated in pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential unless the conditions of the PPP are fulfilled.

May's MHRA Drug Safety Update reminded healthcare professionals of the possibility of severe side effects from the prolonged use of **high potency topical steroids.**

Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)

Coventry and Warwickshire APC have designated Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) as specialist advised for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in adults. Prescribing tirzepatide solely for **weight loss** (in the absence of type 2 diabetes) is **not clinically supported or funded by C&W ICB** until NICE have evaluated its use for this indication. Tirzepatide is administered by **subcutaneous injection once a week**. The Mounjaro® KwikPen® contains **4 doses** (**one pen = 4 weeks supply**).

All strengths of Mounjaro® are currently available: 2.5 mg/0.6ml, 5mg/0.6ml,7.5 mg/0.6ml,10 mg/0.6ml,12.5 mg/0.6ml,15 mg/0.6ml as Mounjaro KwikPens® solution for injection 2.4ml pre-filled pens.

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