

Community Pharmacies in Brighton & Hove

Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove
BN3 4AH

Tel: 01273 238835

Email: BHCCG.MedicinesManagement@nhs.net
Web: www.brightonandhoveccg.nhs.uk

18 July 2017

Dear Community Pharmacist,

I am writing to make you aware of the switching action plan being carried out by the Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group Medicines Management Team this year.

This will involve us working with GP practices across the city to identify and appropriately switch patients from a range of non-preferred prescription items to Joint Formulary approved, cost effective products. This is expected to make significant reductions to prescribing costs in Brighton & Hove, allowing greater investments in other treatments and areas of healthcare locally. You can view the Joint Formulary here www.gp.brightonandhoveccg.nhs.uk/prescribing/joint-formulary.

Enclosed is a summary of the switches we will be carrying out in practices over the coming months. Please familiarise yourself with these switches and ensure you are able to obtain the appropriate stock and provide the necessary counselling to patients once they have been switched. We will be routinely informing patients who have been switched via an appropriate method (script note, letter, or via telephone etc.) but it would be beneficial for community pharmacies to support the informing of patients.

As with previous switching action plans carried out by the CCG Medicines Management Team I hope you will be supportive of this highly beneficial work. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us using the email address below. Likewise, if you are aware of any concerns such as stock availability problems, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Kay Begum (07717423600)	Aggie Danson (07867528974)
Natalia Angulo-Guerrero (07880002580)	Susan Finall (07880002506)
Robert Porter-Jones (07880002591)	

Prescribing Support Technicians

Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group

Medicines Management Team – BHCCG.MedicinesManagement@nhs.net



Appendix 1

Switch from	To	Rationale	Gain at 90% success
Abilify	aripiprazole	Generic switch	£ 192.00
Aqueous Cream	Epimax	Branded generic	£ 1,420.00
Arcoxia	Etoricoxib	Generic switch	£ TBC
Aricept	donezepil	Generic switch	£ TBC
Arimidex	anastrazole	Generic switch	£ 128.00
Avodart	dutasteride 0.5mg	Generic switch	£ TBC
Azarga	brinzolamide with timolol	Generic switch	£ TBC
Azopt	brinzolomide	Generic switch	£ 1,213.00
Betoptic	betaxalol	Generic switch	£ TBC
Buprenorphine patches (96 hours)	Bupeaze	Branded generic	£ 5,857.00
Buprenorphine patches (7 days)	Butec	Branded generic	£ 24,226.00
Celebrex	celecoxib	Generic switch	£ 141.00
co-codamol	Zapain	Branded generic	£ 930.00
Cosopt	dorzolamide & timolol	Generic switch	£ 1,111.00
Cymbalta	duloxetine	Generic switch	£ 552.00
Detrusitol 1mg & 2mg tabs	Tolteridine 1mg & 2mg Tabs	Generic switch	£ 108.00
Diltiazam 60mg MR	Tildiem	Branded generic	£ 2,765.00
Diprobase	Zerobase	Branded generic	£ 1,394.00
E45 cream	Zerocream	Branded generic	£ 3,099.00
Ebixa	memantine	Generic switch	£ TBC
Fentanyl patches	Matrifen	Branded generic	£ 10,013.00
Flixonase	Avamys	Therapeutic switch	£ 4,843.00
gliclazide 40mg	gliclazide 80mg half	80mg tabs cheaper	£ 1,099.00
Half-Movicol	half-Cosmocool	Branded generic	£ 19,659.00
Hydromol	Zeroderm	Branded generic	£ 217.00
Ibuprofen caps	Ibuprofen tabs	Cost-effective switch	£ 43.00
ISMN 60mg	Monomil XL 60mg	Branded generic	£ 4,773.00
Losec	omeprazole	Generic switch	£ 53.00
Lyrica	Pregabalin	Generic switch	£ TBC
Mag glycerrophos	Magnaphate	Branded generic	£ TBC
Mesalazine MR	Octasa	Branded generic	£ 29,981.00
Metformin MR	Sukkarto	Branded generic	£ 7,909.00
Methyphenidate XL	Matoride XL	Branded generic	£ 1,590.00
Midodrine	Bramox	Branded generic	£ TBC
Mometasone cream 0.1%	Betametasone cream 0.1% (Betnovate)	Therapeutic switch	£ 912.00
Nexium	Ventra	Branded generic	£ 6,000.00
Olanzapine melts	olanzapine orodispersible	Generic switch	£ 4,247.00

Switch from	To	Rationale	Gain at 90% success
Oxynorm	Shortec caps/liq/inj	Branded generic	£ TBC
Pariet	Rabeprazole	Generic switch	£ 160.00
Piroxicam gel 0.5%	Ibuprofen gel 5%	Therapeutic switch	£ 2,079.00
Pramipexol MR	Pipexus MR	Branded generic	£ 13,943.00
Prednisolone soluble	prednisolone dompe (if no swallowing difficulty switch to plain tabs)	Branded generic	£ 22,443.00
Pregabalin (GAD & Epilepsy) (not Alzain)	Axalid	Branded generic	£ 23,7396.00
Procyclidine tablets	Kemadrin tablets	Cost-effective switch	£ 31908.00
Protium	pantoprazole	Generic switch	£ TBC
Quetiapine MR	Mintreleq MR	Branded generic	£ 23,329.00
Renegel	Sevelamer generic	Generic switch	£ 3,196.00
Rivastigmine patches	Alzest	Branded generic	£ 8,567.00
Rizatriptan Melts	Rizatriptan orodisp tabs	Cost-effective switch	£ 46,059.00
Ropinirol XL	Repinex XL	Branded generic	£ 2,589.00
Stalevo	Sastravi	Branded generic	£ 5,387.00
Spiriva 18mcg (handihaler and refill)	Braltus 10mcg Zonda	Branded generic	£ 145488
Subutex	buprenorphine generic	Generic switch	£ 10,754.00
Tamsulosin 400mcg XL tablets	capsules	Cost-effective switch	£ 596.00
Targinact	Longtec	No switch – advise prescriber	£ 10,548.00
Teoptic	Carteolol	Generic switch	£ TBC
Timoptol	Timolol	Generic switch	£ 3,891.00
Tolteridine 4mg MR Caps	Neditol 4mg MR caps	Branded generic	£ 3,314.00
Tramacet	Tramadol and paracetamol (separately)	No switch – advise prescriber	£ 813.00
Tramadol MR	Marol MR	Branded generic	£ 2,859.00
Venlafaxine MR	Vensir MR	Branded generic	£ 39,403.00
Vitamin B co	Vit B co strong	Therapeutic switch	£ TBC
Xalacom	latanoprost and timolol	Generic switch	£ 1,084.00
Xalatan	latanoprost	Generic switch	£ TBC
Zoton	Lansoprazole	Generic switch	£ TBC
Zyprexa tabs	generic olanzapine	Generic switch	£ 1,168.00

Generic switch

Generally, generic prescribing is preferred as generics are as effective as branded medicines but may be up to 80% cheaper. Where there are multiple brands on the market, prescribing generically avoids confusion. The NHS price of generic medicines is listed in the Drug Tariff. We may make

generic switches in advance of a patent expiry to take advantage of cost savings as soon as the patent expires. Some medicines – eg some antiepileptics, oral contraceptives – should be prescribed by brand name and we don't switch these.

We do this only with the consent of the prescriber and we provide simple messages for the patient, usually in a script note.

Branded generics

The UK medicine market is fiercely competitive and occasionally a manufacturer will undercut the NHS price and after assessing the medicine, we recommend switching to that manufacturer/brand. Prescribing a branded generic means that the patient will receive the medicine in consistent livery over a multiple prescriptions. Other branded generics will also be switched to preferred brand.

We do this only with the consent of the prescriber and we provide simple messages for the patient, usually in a script note.

Therapeutic switch

We may recommend switching from one medicine to a different one where they are deemed to be therapeutically equivalent but the new medicine is more cost effective; this may mean that the delivery device looks different.

We do this only with the consent of the prescriber and we will write to the patient to provide them with information about the new medicine.

Flat pricing

Sometimes a manufacturer will offer a range of strengths of a medicine at the same price. It is therefore more cost effective to prescribe the strength appropriate to the patient's dose rather than multiples of a lower strength. This also reduces the patient's daily pill burden. Occasionally however a lower strength will cost more than twice the higher strength, so it is more cost-effective to prescribe half doses of the higher strength (where the tablet is scored).

We do this only with the consent of the prescriber and we will write to the patient to provide them with information about the new dose.

Appendix 1a

Duraphat toothpaste	Remove items from repeat prescription	Dental products are NOT currently on the formulary. Products recommended by dentists such as fluoride tablets, toothpastes and mouthwashes should be purchased OTC by the patient or prescribed by the dentist recommending them. It is inappropriate to ask the GP to take clinical responsibility for this specialist prescribing. Where a specialist has asked GP to prescribe in vulnerable patient cohort, technician to discuss further with practice prescribing advisor.
Ascorbic acid	Remove items from repeat prescription	Cost of ascorbic acid on FP10 has increased significantly over the past 12 months. Drug tariff May 2016 prices:



		<p>50mg (28) = £15.05 200mg (28) = £19.86 100mg (28) = £14.30 500mg (28) = £26.87</p> <p>Patients should be encouraged to eat a balanced diet which provides adequate Vitamin C. Vitamin C preparations are readily available to buy over the counter at low prices. If prescribed, the licensed indication for ascorbic acid 500mg is for the treatment of scurvy. The only nutritional supplement where there is evidence to support long-term administration in alcoholic patients is thiamine, to prevent hepatic encephalopathy.</p> <p>Where ascorbic acid is co-prescribed with iron supplement, the directions on the iron supplement will be amended to state "Take with a glass of orange juice..." (as historically ascorbic acid was prescribed to increase iron absorption)</p>
--	--	--

