

This is the fourth edition of the Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group newsletter.

*What's been going on ..... ?*

### **NewTherapiesSubgroup**

The New Therapies Subgroup (NTS) has met twice since the last edition of this newsletter and you can keep up to date with their activities via the GMMMG website.

The group has issued recommendations concerning:

- Adalimumab for Crohn's disease
- Cilostazol for intermittent claudication
- Colesevelam
- Methylphenidate for ADHD in adults
- Modafinil for chronic shift-work sleep disorder

The group has also updated their varenicline recommendation following the availability of more safety data.

### **New products and indications**

The GMMMG monthly horizon scanning report (available on the **publications** page of the GMMMG website) is now available going back to the previous six months, as opposed to just three months as was originally planned. These reports are useful when trying to gauge new sources of prescribing cost pressures and their likely impact in the months ahead.

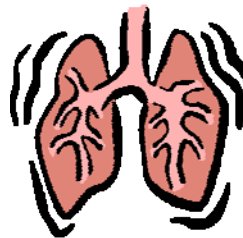
### **GMMMG News**

#### **A date for your diary!**

Are you interested in finding out more about GMMMG and its related groups? Are you interested in medicines management issues across Greater Manchester? Then don't miss the next GMMMG conference being held on the morning of **9<sup>th</sup> September 2008** alongside the BPC conference at the Manchester Evening News Stadium. **Attendance at the GMMMG conference is free to all those from Greater Manchester.**

This event is also a chance for you to showcase research or work done by your organisation. If you are interested in submitting a poster presentation then please email a brief description to Bhavana Reddy, Head of Prescribing Support at the Wolfson Unit, ([bhavana.reddy@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:bhavana.reddy@nuth.nhs.uk)).

#### **Switch to CFC-free beclometasone – act now!**



By now you should have seen the Drug Update on switching patients from standard beclometasone inhalers, which are being withdrawn and have rocketed in price. To accompany this we have also produced a *Switch-Saving Calculator™* that will demonstrate the financial impact of a switch to either of the currently available CFC-free beclometasone inhalers. Check it out here .....



[www.nyrtdc.nhs.uk/Services/presc\\_supp/switch\\_saving\\_calculator/switch\\_saving\\_calculator.html](http://www.nyrtdc.nhs.uk/Services/presc_supp/switch_saving_calculator/switch_saving_calculator.html)

A password is required to access the calculators, contact us for details: ([william.horsley@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:william.horsley@nuth.nhs.uk))

## Interface News

The group last met in March with the May meeting postponed until July. The North West Interface Harmonisation project is progressing well. Modafinil for chronic shift-work disorder was discussed and referred to the NTS (see page 1). You can keep an eye on the activities of the Interface Prescribing Group via the GMMM website, which also contains an up-to-date RAG (Red/Amber/Green) list.

## Shared Care Guideline (SCG) news

The website has been updated and a number of previously 'out of date' SCG have either been highlighted or removed once superseded. We have added a number of new SCG including:

- Immunosuppression after kidney transplant (replacing a number of out of date SCGs)
- Melatonin
- DMARDs for rheumatoid arthritis (replacing a number of out of date SCGs)
- Growth hormone (section update only)
- Rivastigmine and deferasirox (for adults) coming soon

## Metobject®

A licensed presentation of parenteral methotrexate known as Metobject® is now available in pre-filled syringes. To avoid discarding small quantities of methotrexate to achieve the required dose from a Metobject® syringe it is recommended that if the dose of methotrexate required **is not** equal to an available Metobject® syringe then a compounded preparation of the exact dose should be used. However if the required dose of methotrexate **is** equal to an available Metobject® syringe this should be used in preference to unlicensed and compounded preparations.

## Publications

The GMMM website displays all recent publications and additional resources that are not mailed out directly, such as the academic detailing aids that accompany each Drug Update. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this newsletter the following documents have been published:



### New Drug Evaluations

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| • Aliskiren    | <i>Feb</i>   |
| • Paliperidone | <i>Feb</i>   |
| • Vildagliptin | <i>March</i> |

### Drug Updates

(plus academic detailing aids *web only*)

- |                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| • CFC-free inhaled steroids | <i>March</i> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|

### Rapid Appraisals

- |                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| • ESMON study (blood glucose)    | <i>May</i>   |
| • PERISCOPE study (pioglitazone) | <i>April</i> |
| • Varenicline vs. NRT            | <i>Feb</i>   |
| • Clopidogrel cessation          | <i>Feb</i>   |

### Safer Medication Use

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| • Inhaled corticosteroids | <i>March</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------|

## In the pipeline

### New Drug Evaluations

- Colesevelam
- Melatonin MR

### Drug Updates

- Fixed-dose combination products
- Glucosamine
- Strong opioid drugs for cancer pain

