

# PRESCRIBING SUPPORT UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1 January 2010

## Prescribing Report News

**Cost Savings Report** - As prescribing cost savings are on the agenda again, we are producing a **Cost Savings Report**, in which we will be flagging up areas where stakeholder PCTs may be able to make savings in the days of austerity ahead. The anticipated distribution date is the end of February. If there are any areas you would like us to focus on or if you have any cost savings ideas you are willing to share, please e-mail [nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk).

**Antipsychotic Prescribing Report** - Prescribing data to accompany the **Safer Medication Use** review

## Local Decision Making (LDM) Regional Events

Representatives from NHS organisations across England have been taking part in regional events, focussing on how decisions about medicines and treatments are taken at a local level. In recognition of the controversial nature of these decisions, and in response to concerns raised regarding variation in access to medicines, the DH published a set of guiding principles which PCTs are legally obliged to take into account. The regional events are part of a national support programme, provided by the National Prescribing Centre, to help people apply those principles and encourage best practice.

Details of the North of England events, held in Manchester in December and Newcastle in January – plus an array of resources for all those involved in LDM – can be found on a new website: ([http://www.npci.org.uk/l dm/public/home\\_page.php](http://www.npci.org.uk/l dm/public/home_page.php)). A repository of shared material and a private discussion forum are available in a secure area of the site.

For access to these or further information, please contact your LDM regional facilitator:

Yorkshire & the Humber and North West –

[paul.mcmanus@barnsleypct.nhs.uk](mailto:paul.mcmanus@barnsleypct.nhs.uk) 01226 433667

North East – [dominic.mcdermott@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:dominic.mcdermott@nuth.nhs.uk) 0191 2606189

Do you need to improve your knowledge and skills in cost-effective prescribing?

We can help with critical appraisal & pharmacoeconomics training

## Critical Appraisal Workshop

Main topics include:

- Trial methodology and levels of evidence
- How to systematically examine research evidence
- Using appraisal tools and checklists
- Statistics for the non-statistician

## Pharmacoeconomics Workshop

Main topics include:

- Types of costs
- Cost minimisation
- Cost effectiveness and ICERs
- Cost utility and QALYs

To discuss your training needs or for further information about training provided by the unit please contact Dr Stephen Erhorn at

[nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk)

## Mesalazine MR Substitution

This is an area PCTs may want to explore for potential cost savings. A recent review of mesalazine MR formulations in ulcerative colitis (UC) has estimated that substituting Asacol<sup>®</sup> MR with Mesren<sup>®</sup> MR in patients with stable UC, and for those newly started on 5-aminosalicylate therapy could potentially save £20 million in primary care prescribing costs over the next 5 years. One recommendation is that whilst Mesren<sup>®</sup> MR should be prescribed instead of Asacol<sup>®</sup> MR for all new patients, and for patients requiring a change to their drug regimen, discretion should be applied in switching patients who have mild and/or stable UC. (Grosso A et al. A review of mesalazine MR formulations in ulcerative colitis. Br J Clin Pharmacy, 2009. 1: 333-336)

How to  
get in  
touch...



Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre,  
Wolfson Unit, Claremont Place,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4HH



[nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk) [NEW!]



0191 260 6188



<http://www.nyrdtc.nhs.uk/>

### Switch Saving Calculators (SSCs)

Available at

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

### Cost Comparison Charts

January 2010 Cost Comparison Charts are now on the website at

[http://www.nyrdtc.nhs.uk/Services/presc\\_supp/presc\\_supp.html](http://www.nyrdtc.nhs.uk/Services/presc_supp/presc_supp.html)

*For a password for the SSCs (stakeholders only), to request SSCs for other therapeutic areas, and/or to request additions to the Cost Comparison Charts, please e-mail [nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk)*

### Welcome to...

**Glen Wilson** – Senior Medical Information Scientist

**Hayley Millington** – Medical Information Scientist

**Monica Mason** – Lead Pharmacist (Medicines Management)

**Neil Frankland** – Principal Pharmacist (Medicines Management)

**Sharon Harvey** – Secretary (Prescribing Support/MI)

**Dominic McDermott** – Senior Pharmacist (Prescribing Support)

### And also...

Archie MacFarlane born 12<sup>th</sup> Oct

Isabel Dickinson born 27<sup>th</sup> Oct



## Publications - Coming Soon!

### New Drug Evaluations:

Tredaptive®

Saxagliptin

Febuxostat

Dronedarone

### Safer Medication Use:

Antiplatelets

Strong Opioids

Tricyclic Antidepressants in the Elderly

Antipsychotics

### Drug Updates:

Isomer Drug Update

### Detailed Documents:

Treatment of HIV

## Publications – Out now!

### New Drug Evaluations:

Intranasal Fentanyl

Agomelatine

Qlaira®

### Safer Medication Use:

Can Proton Pump Inhibitors Increase Risk of Osteoporotic Fracture?

For information on publications or requests for future documents email Dr Stephen Erhorn [nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk)

We now publish our work plan for upcoming publications and reports:

[http://www.nyrdtc.nhs.uk/Services/presc\\_supp/presc\\_supp.html](http://www.nyrdtc.nhs.uk/Services/presc_supp/presc_supp.html)

## PUBLICATIONS SURVEY

### WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

To ensure that our publications continue to meet the needs of prescribers and prescribing influencers we have produced a survey designed to assess your views on their content and impact. This short survey will be arriving in your inbox in mid February, so please take this opportunity to offer your opinions and suggestions. The information received will be used to guide the future development of our publications.

