

Derbyshire Medicines Management  
Clinical Effectiveness bulletin  
Information relevant for Primary care

Bulletin 4  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Recognising the impact COVID-19 on all aspect of our work life, the Derbyshire CPD team have put a bulletin together of relevant COVID-19 information, for the Derbyshire wide primary care Health Community. As an interim measure this bulletin will supersede the monthly JAPC bulletin  
See <http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/medicines-management/coronavirus-covid-19> for all COVID-19 related information

**The Clinical Policy and Decisions team has created a Covid webpage which hosts all Covid related information (local and national) relevant for primary care on the [Derbyshire Medicines Management website](#).**

**Phytomenadione (Konakion MM Paediatric) 2mg/0.2ml ampoules (Cheplapharm)**

UK licensed Konakion MM Paediatric is out of stock until the end of May 2020. Supplies of Konakion MM Paediatric in tri-lingual packaging (including English; considered unlicensed in the UK) are available to support during this time. Where there are insufficient supplies of licensed stock available, clinicians should consider prescribing unlicensed Konakion MM Paediatric. Trusts should consider their position regarding the use of unlicensed Konakion MM Paediatric that may be supplied against a Midwives Exemption.

**Cyanocobalamin 1000mcg daily for Vitamin B12 deficiency – classified as BROWN for the covid period**

For the Covid period a local [Vitamin B12 deficiency guidance](#) has been produced. The guidance states to continue with the Hydroxocobalamin IM injections if possible for deficient patients. Where this is not possible, delaying the next injection by 3 to 6 months can be considered. When giving or delaying are not viable options, then cyanocobalamin 1000mcg daily (unlicensed) can either be prescribed or the patient can purchase over the counter. The current traffic light classification for cyanocobalamin (BLACK) has been relaxed to BROWN during the Covid period to allow prescribing in primary care.

**National advice**

**Coronavirus – Covid 19, CKS summary**

- Coronavirus or COVID-19 is a novel virus which emerged in China in late 2019.
- The illness caused is predominantly respiratory with a prodrome lasting 2-10 days.
- The commonest symptoms are fever, cough and shortness of breath. The illness is variable in severity from asymptomatic, to mild respiratory infection in some people to severe pneumonia in others.
- Treatments are not curative but symptomatic and involve supportive measures. Further details of how to manage the symptoms can be found on the CKS website.

**Statement from JCVI on immunisation prioritisation.**

Maintain immunisation services to reduce the serious risk of vaccine-preventable disease. During this current situation it is very important to maintain the national immunisation programme. This will avoid outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases and provide important protection to children and other vulnerable groups. It will also avoid increasing further the numbers of patients requiring health services because of vaccine-preventable diseases. The routine immunisation programme should be maintained. Where practices experience high demand on services, it is important to prioritise time sensitive vaccines for babies, children and pregnant women:

1. routine childhood immunisations (to include targeted neonatal hepatitis B and BCG), from birth up to and including vaccines offered to babies, infants and pre-school children including first and second MMR doses
2. pertussis vaccination in pregnancy

3. pneumococcal vaccination for those in risk groups from 2 to 64 years of age and those aged 65 years and over (subject to supplies of PPV23 and clinical prioritisation)

If people present for any other scheduled vaccination, the opportunity to provide this should not be missed. Providing those attending for vaccination (including parents of babies) are well, are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or other infections and are not self-isolating because they are contacts of suspected COVID-19 cases, immunisation should proceed. Most children suffer from a very minor illness with COVID-19. If immunisation services lapse, there will be consequential substantially increased risk to health from vaccine-preventable diseases.

**High quality e-learning courses from PrescQIPP** – both of these e-learning courses may be useful in upskilling staff about medicines and medicines administration:

#### **1. Practice medicines co-ordinator training**

The CPD certified practice medicines co-ordinators e-learning course is designed for non-clinical staff in GP practices that manage the repeat prescribing process.

[Practice Medicines Coordinators - subscribers](#)

#### **2. Managing medicines for adults receiving social care in the community**

Domiciliary care e-learning courses are now available for staff. This e-learning courses may be useful for social care staff with the change from MCA dispensing to original packs by community pharmacists [PrescQIPP Managing medicines for adults receiving social care in the community e-learning - Course overview \(1\)](#)

#### **NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS).**

The CPCS takes referrals to community pharmacy from NHS 111 (and NHS 111 online for requests for urgent supply). The CPCS aims to relieve pressure on the wider NHS by connecting patients with community pharmacy, which should be their first port of call and can deliver a swift, convenient and effective service to meet their needs. COVID-19: patients being referred to the CPCS are being told to phone the pharmacy and to speak to the pharmacist. Unless there is a clinical need for the patient to be seen in the pharmacy, the pharmacist can provide a consultation by telephone. If the consultation is conducted in this manner, the pharmacy is eligible to claim the fee for provision of the service.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for community pharmacy teams**

Public Health England's (PHE) updated guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), published on 2nd April 2020, now recommends use of fluid-resistant surgical masks in pharmacies when working in an area with possible or confirmed cases and where staff are unable to maintain 2 metres social distance from the patient.

The updated guidance reflects the fact that coronavirus is now widespread in the community, meaning clinicians are more likely to see patients with the virus, some of whom may have minimal or no symptoms. Despite advice to patients with COVID-19 symptoms that they should stay away from pharmacies, some people are not following that guidance and pharmacy team members are potentially being exposed to possible or confirmed cases.

It is important to note that while pharmacy staff may now choose to wear masks in line with the revised guidance, it is imperative that social distancing and self-isolation (where appropriate) continue to be practised and hygiene measures, such as regular hand washing, continue to be followed.

#### **MHRA**

[Class 4 Drug Alert: GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Ltd – various OTC cold and flu remedies and treatments for allergies](#)

Due to a machinery defect with the printing line, a number of packs from the affected batches may not have the batch number and expiry date printed on the outer cartons. The correct information is printed on the blister pack and there is no concern with the product quality.