

# Tablets

## Medicines Management News

Issue 19, Sept/Oct 2015

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### Wirral Drugs and Therapeutics Panel September 2015

**RED Cabergoline.** This was approved for prevention of ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome. It is a RED drug.

**AMBER Apixaban.** This was approved for acute treatment of VTE and prevention of recurrence (NICE TA 341). The Cardiovascular Clinical Group has been asked to develop guidelines and to consider agreeing a NOAC of choice across Primary and Secondary Care to ensure consistency.

**Rifaximin.** This was approved for the prevention of recurrent overt hepatic encephalopathy in patients with Type C encephalopathy due to chronic liver disease (NICE TA337). This is to be classified as a RED drug until a prescribing pathway has been approved at the next Drug and Therapeutics Panel meeting in November, then it will change to AMBER. Once approved, the prescribing pathway will be available on the Medicines Management website.

**Adoption of Formularies from Specialist Centres.** Previously Wirral Drug and Therapeutics Panel approved the adoption of the Mental Health Formulary from Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and chapter 4.8 (Treatment of Epilepsy) of the Pan Mersey Formulary, which is used by the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust. Approval has now been given for WUTH to adopt the Pan Mersey Formulary for other neurological diseases, e.g. headache and drugs used in Parkinson's disease.

**Meningitis B vaccine (Bexsero® ▼).** From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, all infants born on or after 1 July will be eligible for the Meningitis B vaccine which will be administered together with other primary immunisations at two, four and twelve months as part of the National Immunisation Programme.

### Current Issues

#### Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 – Update

Currently, GP Practices receive sharps through Primary Care Support Services. We now have had confirmation that Primary Care Support Services are now able to offer the sharps with the safer technology (B braun brand), if a Practice orders these products. We have been informed that the product codes are as follows:

Needle hypodermic sterile with protection device:

- 25g x 5/8 (0.5mm x 16mm) product code ftr1016
- 25 x 1" (0.5mm x 25mm) product code ftr1015 (currently unavailable)
- 23 x 1" (0.6mm x 25mm) product code ftr1013
- 21 x 1.5" (0.8mm x 38mm) product code ftr1008
- 19 x 105" (1.10mm x 38mm) product code ftr1005

Practices may require training on the safer sharp devices. The B braun company have offered to send supporting information, including posters, to Practices. Further information will be sent to Practices about any training events. It



would be advisable for each Practice to send a Practice Nurse Representative to any training events, wherever possible.

Further information can be found on the Medicines Management website at:

<http://mm.wirral.nhs.uk/OtherTopics/>

**Background information** - the EU Directive highlights that it is a breach of Health and Safety Law for Healthcare Staff to use a traditional, unprotected medical ('non-safe') sharp in cases where there is a version of a 'safer sharp'. The term 'safer sharp' means medical sharps that incorporate features or mechanisms to prevent or minimise the risk of accidental injury. For further information about the EU Directive, please go to:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/needlesticks/eu-directive.htm>

GP Practices should be advised that it is the individual Practices' responsibility to ensure that they comply with this EU Directive and are either using or working towards using 'safer sharps'. As a commissioner of services, Wirral CCG would expect all providers of care to comply with any relevant legislation such as this Directive. All employers are required under existing Health and Safety Law to ensure that risks from sharps injuries are adequately assessed and that appropriate control measures are in place. The Sharps Regulations build on the existing Health and Safety Law and provide specific detail on requirements that must be taken by healthcare employers and their contractors.

For Primary Care, it is expected that the following procedures may be affected:

- Minor operations.
- Corticosteroid injections (for musculoskeletal use).
- Vitamin B12 injection.
- Injectable antipsychotics (likely to be dependent upon the manufacturer).
- Injectable analgesia.
- Injectable antibiotics, including community pre-admission treatment for probable bacterial meningitis/meningococcal septicaemia.
- Immunisations (likely to be dependent upon the manufacturer).
- Initiation of insulin / GLP-1 analogues (only if insulin / GLP-1 analogues are being administered to the patient by a Healthcare Professional).

Please note this list is not exhaustive and so Practices are expected to consider all of the clinical activities they undertake and ensure they risk assess/move to 'safer sharps' accordingly. 'Safer sharps' do not necessarily remove all the risks associated with the use of a sharp and there will be situations where 'safer sharps' are not appropriate. The EU Directive goes into this in more detail. Risk assessments should be undertaken for each procedure/individual patient and any decisions made recorded accordingly in the patient's clinical record.

Infection Control Audits being undertaken currently have highlighted to Practices where they may be non-compliant with this EU Directive.

Using 'safer sharps' (or working towards this) will enable Practices to ensure compliance with this EU Directive. This will also support compliance with other areas such as Infection Control and CQC.

### **Palliative Care Emergency Medicines Service**

There are twelve Community Pharmacies providing this service in Wirral CCG. The Palliative Care Emergency Medicines Service will improve access to essential palliative care medicines. It ensures continuity of supply and supports patients, carers and healthcare professionals by providing them with information, advice and signposting, where appropriate.

The expected outcomes of this scheme are:

- Improved access in Wirral CCG for patients and healthcare professionals to palliative care medicines when they are required, within normal pharmacy opening hours. The chosen pharmacies have a range of opening hours, including extended and Sunday opening hours.
- Continuous availability of emergency palliative care stock from named pharmacies for patients and health care professionals who require immediate/urgent access to palliative care medicines.

For a list of participating pharmacies and to see the Service Specification (including the stock lists), then please go to: <http://mm.wirral.nhs.uk/OtherTopics/> (under Palliative Care Pharmacies).

Please contact Victoria Vincent, Prescribing Adviser, Medicines Management, on 0151 643 5319, if any further information is required.

### Exenatide (Bydureon®) vial

Astra Zeneca is phasing out Bydureon® (exenatide) single dose tray (vial) shortly, and this is being replaced by the Bydureon® pen.

In Wirral CCG, 4367 items for Bydureon® vials, costing £315,541, were prescribed over the past 12 months. The latest prescribing data (June 2015) shows 343 items were prescribed costing £24,647. This is likely to be reducing as patients are changed over to the pen device and hopefully this will show on more current prescribing data. Practices need to review any patients currently prescribed exenatide MR vial (Bydureon®) and change these patients over to the pen formulation. Patients may require additional training in the use of the pen by the GP or Practice Nurse.

Astra Zeneca (AZ) who manufacture Bydureon® can offer support by training Practice Nurses. Details of any training events will be shared when available. In addition, they can provide the following for individual practices, if required:

- Changing patients from Bydureon® single dose tray (vial) to the pen
- Training patients in the use of Bydureon® Pen
- Training Health Care Professionals in the use of Bydureon® Pen
- The scheme is non promotional and AZ use an independent company called Ashfield Health.

For further information or to provide support, AZ can be contacted via Sharon Davies, 07881358956 or through [sharon.davies@astrazeneca.com](mailto:sharon.davies@astrazeneca.com)

**Please note:** there have been some queries regarding whether Bydureon® pens fit into 1 litre sharps bins. We have been advised by AZ that a month's supply (4 Bydureon® pens) will fit into a 1 litre sharps bin as after administration the part of the pen that needs to be disposed of is half the original size.

## Topic of the month

### European Antibiotic Awareness Day – 18th November

“There are few public health issues of potentially greater importance for society than antibiotic resistance” 2013 CMO Prof Dame Sally Davies.

Held every 18th November, European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) is a day to encourage responsible use of antibiotics.

EAAD is part of the UK 5 Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 to 2018, which focuses on antibiotics and sets out actions to slow the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The overarching goal of the strategy is to slow the development and spread of AMR by: improving the knowledge and understanding of AMR; conservation and stewardship of the effectiveness of existing treatments; stimulating the development of new antibiotics, diagnostics and novel therapies. The NHS, local authorities and others are asked to support EAAD to make a significant impact locally and nationally.

Some of the general key messages are:

- Antibiotics are essential medicines for treating bacterial infections in both humans and animals
- Antibiotics are losing their effectiveness at an increasing rate



A European Health Initiative 

- Bacteria can adapt and find ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic. They become 'antibiotic resistant', so that the antibiotic no longer works. The more you use an antibiotic, the more bacteria become resistant to it
- There are very few new antibiotics in the development pipeline, which is why it is important we use our existing antibiotics wisely and make sure these life-saving medicines continue to stay effective for ourselves and future generations
- Many antibiotics are prescribed and used for mild infections when they do not need to be. All colds and most coughs, sinusitis, otitis media (earache) and sore throats often get better without antibiotics
- Community Pharmacists are well placed to help provide advice on over the counter medicines to treat symptoms.

### Messages for Patients

- Antibiotic resistance is a threat to your health
- Antibiotics do not work for ALL colds, or for most coughs, sore throats or earache. Your body can usually fight these infections on its own.
- The more we use antibiotics, the greater the chance that bacteria will become resistant to them so that they no longer work on our infections
- Antibiotics are important medicines and should only be taken when prescribed by a health professional
- When antibiotics are prescribed by a health professional it is important that you always take them as directed
- Antibiotics can have side effects as they upset the natural balance of bacteria potentially resulting in diarrhoea and/or thrush. The use of inappropriate antibiotics may also allow other more harmful bacteria to increase. Antibiotics also cause other side effects such as rashes, stomach pains and reactions to sunlight



**ANTIBIOTIC  
GUARDIAN**  
UK SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY

- Antibiotic resistant bacteria do not just affect you, they can spread to other people (and animals) in close contact with you and are very difficult to treat.
- Antibiotics should be taken as prescribed, never saved for later or shared with others; it is important to use antibiotics in the right way, the right drug, at the right dose, at the right time for the right duration. Appropriate use of antibiotics will slow down the development of antibiotic resistance.

### Messages for Prescribers

- Public Health England has published a range of materials on its website for use and local adaptation to help support EAAD activities and initiatives: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/european-antibiotic-awareness-day-resources>
- Royal College of General Practitioners is promoting a web-based TARGET antibiotic toolkit which includes a patient information leaflet to assist primary care prescribers
- Communication is key. Studies show that patients are less likely to ask their GP for antibiotics if advised what to expect in the course of an illness and given a self-care plan. Discussing information on the guide to infection leaflet can facilitate this
- Consider backup/delayed prescriptions when appropriate
- Unnecessary lengthy duration of antibiotic treatment and inappropriate use of broad-spectrum antibiotics should be avoided.

### Antibiotic Guardian Campaign

The Antibiotic Guardian Campaign calls on everyone in the UK, the public and medical community, to choose one simple pledge about how they will make better use of antibiotics and help save this vital medicine from becoming obsolete. Visitors are asked to choose a pledge based on if they are a healthcare professional, healthcare leader or a member of the public: [www.antibioticguardian.com](http://www.antibioticguardian.com)



## TARGET tool kit for prescribers

“TARGET” (Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools,) is hosted on the Royal College of General Practitioners website at: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/targetantibiotics/>

It has a range of resources to support the appropriate prescribing of antibiotics including:

- Patient information leaflets
- Audit toolkits with indicators of responsible antimicrobial use
- National antibiotic management guidance
- Training resources including links to online clinical modules
- Resources for practices including videos that can be shown in the waiting room
- A self-assessment checklist for GPs and Commissioners.

### 'Treating your infection' leaflet

The patient 'Treating your infection' leaflet is a widely used part of the RCGP TARGET (Treat Antibiotics Responsibly, Guidance, Education, Tools,) resources:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/targetantibiotics/~/~media/2E1292605D174B318A5302223B04C175.ashx>

**Treating your infection**

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Patient Name:

Your doctor or nurse recommends that you self-care  Back-up antibiotic prescription issued

Your infection	Usually lasts	How to treat yourself better for these infections, now and next time	When should you get help: Contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 (England), NHS 24 (Scotland dial 111), or NHS Direct (Wales dial 0845 4647)
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle-ear infection	4 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have plenty of rest.</li> <li>• Drink enough fluids to avoid feeling thirsty.</li> <li>• Ask your local pharmacist to recommend medicines to help your symptoms or pain (or both).</li> <li>• Fever is a sign the body is fighting the infection and usually gets better by itself in most cases. You can use paracetamol (or ibuprofen) if you or your child are uncomfortable as a result of a fever.</li> <li>• Other things you can do suggested by GP or nurse.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to it, are possible signs of serious illness and should be assessed urgently. Please for advice if you are not sure how urgent the symptoms are.</li> <li>2. if you develop a severe headache and are sick.</li> <li>3. if your skin is very cold or has a strange colour, or you develop an unusual rash.</li> <li>4. if you feel confused or have slurred speech or are very drowsy.</li> <li>5. if you have difficulty breathing. Signs can include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o breathing quickly</li> <li>o turning blue around the lips and the skin below the mouth</li> <li>o skin between or above the ribs getting sucked or pulled in with every breath.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. if you have difficulty swallowing or are drooling.</li> <li>7. if you cough up blood.</li> <li>8. if you are feeling a lot worse.</li> </ol> <p>Less serious signs that can usually wait until the next available GP appointment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. if you are not improving by the time given in the 'Usually lasts' column.</li> <li>10. in children with middle-ear infection, if fluid is coming out of their ears or if they have new deafness.</li> <li>11. Other</li> </ol>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat	7 days		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common cold	10 days		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sinusitis	18 days		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cough or bronchitis	21 days		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other infection: _____	_____ days		

Back-up antibiotic prescription to be collected after  days only if you do not feel better or you feel worse.  
Collect from:  GP reception  GP or nurse  Pharmacy

- Colds, most coughs, sinusitis, ear infections, sore throats, and other infections often get better without antibiotics, as your body can usually fight these infections on its own.
- The more we use antibiotics, the greater the chance that bacteria will become resistant to them so that they no longer work on our infections.
- Antibiotics can cause side effects such as rashes, thrush, stomach pains, diarrhoea, reactions to sunlight, other symptoms, or being sick if you drink alcohol with metronidazole.

Never share antibiotics and always return any unused antibiotics to a pharmacy for safe disposal

Leaflet developed in collaboration with these professional societies:

Public Health England, Royal College of General Practitioners, BSAC, NHS Scotland, Royal College of Nursing, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, IPS, BIAA

This is a tool designed to be used with patients during a consultation to improve the patient’s confidence to self-care and to aid the Prescriber’s communication for patients who do not require an antibiotic prescription for their infection. It includes information on illness duration, self-care advice and advice on when to re-consult. Use of this leaflet has been approved by PHE, RCGP, BSAC, NHS.

The leaflet is available in 10 other languages via the RCGP website.

### PATIENT SAFETY ALERT – addressing antimicrobial resistance through implementation of an antimicrobial stewardship programme August 2015

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/psa-amr-stewardship-prog.pdf>

NHS England, Health Education England and Public Health England have issued a joint National Patient Safety Alert to all providers of NHS care in England to highlight the challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the need for antimicrobial stewardship.

Dr Mike Durkin, NHS England Director of Patient Safety, said: “This important national patient safety alert sends a strong signal that we must work together as a united front to be successful in reducing antimicrobial resistance and keeping these vital medicines effective. Now is the time to act; whether we are patients, GPs, hospitals or national bodies we all have a role to play in preventing what could have a catastrophic effect on healthcare as we know it if we fail to recognise our individual and collective responsibility to manage appropriate antimicrobial stewardship.”

## Drug Tariff

### PRICE CHANGES

#### Top 10 monthly price reductions September 2015

Clobazam 10mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free [1 x 150] £95.00 (-£39.25)  
 Clobazam 5mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free [1 x 150] £90.00 (-£38.61)  
 Carbimazole 20mg tablets [1 x 100] £239.09 (-£22.84)  
 Carbimazole 5mg tablets [1 x 100] £100.90 (-£5.75)  
 Aripiprazole 30mg tablets [1 x 28] £163.20 (-£3.66)  
 Sulfadiazine 500mg tablets [1 x 56] £72.03 (-£2.19)  
 Thiamine 100mg tablets [1 x 100] £10.13 (-£1.42)  
 Topiramate 50mg capsules [1 x 60] £54.86 (-£1.39)  
 Mupirocin 2% ointment [1 x 15] £3.98 (-£1.37)  
 Prochlorperazine 3mg buccal tablets [1 x 50] £25.18 (-£1.20)

#### Top 10 monthly price increases September 2015

Glycopyrronium bromide 1mg tablets [1 x 30] £145.00 (+£34.15)  
 Glycopyrronium bromide 2mg tablets [1 x 30] £175.00 (+£33.37)  
 Trimipramine 25mg tablets [1 x 28] £54.19 (+£14.21)  
 Trimipramine 10mg tablets [1 x 28] £48.51 (+£14.08)  
 Chloral hydrate 143.3mg/5ml oral solution BP [1 x 150] £232.82 (+£13.66)  
 Dicycloverine 20mg tablets [1 x 84] £155.09 (+£11.41)  
 Dicycloverine 10mg tablets [1 x 100] £146.61 (+£10.67)  
 Dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution [1 x 120] £143.84 (+£10.30)  
 Co-danthrusate 50mg/60mg capsules [1 x 63] £52.50 (+£10.00)  
 Cloral betaine 707mg tablets [1 x 30] £132.09 (+£7.77)

#### Top 100 annual price reductions

[http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/home/tariff\\_watch/partviii\\_reductions\\_201509.pdf](http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/home/tariff_watch/partviii_reductions_201509.pdf)

#### Top 100 annual price increases

[http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/home//tariff\\_watch/partviii\\_increases\\_201509.pdf](http://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/home//tariff_watch/partviii_increases_201509.pdf)

#### Medication supply issues

The following generic drugs have supply issues and hence are incurring increased costs; they have been given a NCSO (NO CHEAPER STOCK OBTAINABLE) status for September 2015. Please consider the costs of the following drugs before prescribing.

Product	Quantity	Price concession
Celiprolol 200mg tablets	28	£19.83

Cimetidine 400mg tablets	60	£6.09
Clindamycin 150mg capsules	24	£12.75
Diclofenac sodium 50mg gastro-resistant tablets	28	£2.73
Digoxin 125microgram tablets	28	£3.45
Digoxin 250microgram tablets	28	£3.75
Digoxin 62.5microgram tablets	28	£4.45
Fosinopril 20mg tablets	28	£15.40
Lamotrigine 5mg dispersible tablets sugar free	28	£8.99
Mefenamic acid 500mg tablets	28	£12.20
Trazodone 50mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	120ml	£117.00

## DRUG AVAILABILITY

### Other drugs with long-term supply issues

The following drugs have long-term supply issues. The table below shows the reason for the supply issue, where known, and possible return to stock dates.

Description	Due date	Comment
<b>Aldomet® tablets 250mg</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Antabuse® tablets 200mg</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Antepsin® tablets 1g</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Aquadrate® cream 10% x 100g (Alliance Pharm)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Cardicor® tablets 2.5mg x 28 (Merck Serono)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A market shortage is causing a delay in supply
<b>Colofac® tablets 135mg x 100 (Bgp Products)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Diclofenac EC 50mg tablets (different brands)</b>	Limited supplies ongoing	A supplier issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Dovobet® ointment x 30g (Leo Pharma Ltd)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply

<b>Erythroped A® tablets 500mg x 28</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Eurax® cream 10% x 100g</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Freestyle® 0.5mm/28G lancets x 200 (Abbott)</b>	Limited supplies ongoing	A supplier issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Inspira® tablets 50mg x 28 (Pfizer)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Kemadrin® tablets 5mg x 500 (Aspen)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Kwells® Junior tablets x 12 (Bayer)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Lacri-Lube® eye ointment x 5g (Allergan)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply – an alternative is Xailin Night® ointment
<b>Muse® Urethral Stick 1mg</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Nasofan® nasal spray 50micrograms x 60dose</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Otomize® ear spray x 5ml (Forest Labs)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Ovestin® applicator and cream x 15g (Aspen)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Premique® Low Dose tablets 0.3mg/1.5mg x 28X3</b>	Limited supplies ongoing	A supplier issue is causing a delay in supply. Medical Information Enquiries - 0845 608 8866
<b>Sno Tears® eye drops x 10ml (Bausch&amp;Lomb)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply – an alternative is Liquifilm Tears® eye drops
<b>Synalar® cream/gel x 30g (Derma UK)</b>	Limited supplies ongoing	Ongoing supply issue.
<b>Traxam® gel 3% x 100g (Amco Rwa/Mercury Pharma)</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply
<b>Vistamethasone® eye drops x 10ml</b>	Supplier unable to confirm	A manufacturing issue is causing a delay in supply

For any further information regarding supply problems please contact your Practice Pharmacist/Technician or the Medicines Management Team.

## Ditropan® (oxybutynin) 2.5mg/5ml elixir - discontinued

Sanofi have discontinued Ditropan® 2.5mg/5ml elixir and stocks are no longer available. Alternatives include crushing tablets and mixing with water as per Newt Guidelines: <http://www.newtguidelines.com/> or using Kentera® (oxybutynin) 35mg patches.

## Safety

### Mirabegron Tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) updated

The SPC for mirabegron tablets has been updated. Severe uncontrolled hypertension (systolic BP  $\geq 180$  mmHg and/or diastolic BP  $\geq 110$  mmHg) is now listed as a contraindication, along with an associated warning of increased blood pressure (BP). Insomnia and urinary retention have also been added to the SPC as side-effects.

Prescribers are advised to measure BP before starting treatment and to monitor BP regularly during treatment, especially in patients with existing hypertension:

<http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/history/27429>

### Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs): very low risk of subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus

If a patient treated with a PPI develops lesions, especially in sun-exposed areas of the skin, and it is accompanied by arthralgia the following the recommendations should be advised:

- avoid exposing the skin to sunlight
- consider subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE) as a possible diagnosis
- consider stopping use of the PPI unless it is imperative for a serious acid-related condition; a patient who develops SCLE with a particular PPI may be at risk of the same reaction with another
- in most cases, symptoms resolve on PPI withdrawal; topical or systemic steroids might be necessary for treatment of SCLE only if there are no signs of remission after a few weeks or months
- report any suspected side effect with PPIs, or any other medicine, on a Yellow Card: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

### Lacri-Lube® eye ointment - small black particles on or around the nozzle of the tube

Manufacturer Allergan has recalled specific batches of Lacri-lube® eye ointment following a small number of complaints regarding black particles on or around the nozzle of the tube which could potentially get into the eye.

The recall process and batches affected can be found on the MHRA website. This is likely to result in a product shortage as reported above in the 'Drug availability' section: [https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/56001401e5274a151e00001f/EL\\_15\\_A08.pdf](https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/56001401e5274a151e00001f/EL_15_A08.pdf)

**Latanoprost (Xalatan®): increased reporting of eye irritation since reformulation** - Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency – published 20 July 2015. As reported in Tablets, issue 18, the Xalatan® formulation of latanoprost has recently been changed such that the pH is now 6.0 compared to 6.7 previously. This change allows for longer-term storage at room temperature; however it has also been associated with an increase in reporting of eye irritation. Patients are advised to tell their healthcare professional promptly (within a week) if they have eye irritation (e.g. excessive eye watering) severe enough to make them consider stopping treatment. There are several generic formulations of latanoprost 0.005% eye drops available with higher pH's which might be suitable alternatives (see table below).

Manufacturer	Product	pH value range
Actavis	Latanoprost 0.005% eye drops	6.4-7.0
Beacon	Latanoprost 0.005% eye drops	6.7
Martindale Pharmaceuticals	Latanoprost 0.005% eye drops	6.5-6.9
Sandoz	Latanoprost 0.005% eye drops	6.6 +/- 0.3
Zentiva	Latanoprost 0.005% eye drops	6.5-6.9
FDC International	Latanoprost 0.005% eye drops	6.3-7
Pfizer	Xalatan® eye drops	6.0



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