

North West Region

Regatta Place
Summers Road
LIVERPOOL
L3 4BL

To Northwest Region:

Prescribers in GP practices (to share with practice pharmacists)

Community pharmacists

Community Trust Chief Pharmacists (to share with mental health teams, medical and nursing directors)

Acute Trust Chief Pharmacists (for sharing with neurology and mental health, medical and nursing directors)

CCG Heads of medicines management (to share with medicines management teams, medical and nursing directors)

Tel: 01138252355

Email: england.nwcdreporting@nhs.net

For information:

ICS Nursing Directors

NHS England & NHS Improvement Nursing Director Northwest

NHS England & NHS Improvement Medical Director Northwest

NHS England & NHS Improvement Chief Pharmacist Northwest

Date: 10/09/2020

Ref: NWCDT 00104

Dear colleagues

Re: Priadel® discontinuation

The Regional Chief Pharmacist wrote to all primary care prescribers and community pharmacists on 4 Sept 2020 reminding all to **discourage** prescribing more than 1 month's supply of Priadel® at a time, to ensure equitable access for all patients.

Both Camcolit® and Priadel® tablets are available via Essential Pharma's distributor Movianto (for wholesalers AAH, Alliance and Phoenix).

If stock is required urgently and not available please contact your wholesalers directly or Movianto on 01234 248 500 or e-mail:

orders.UK@movianto.com

Clinicians and patients across the Region have formed a short life working group (SLWG) to implement a consistent approach across the Northwest and we thought the following would be helpful:



For now:

1. Prescribe Camcolit® (by brand) for **new** patients requiring lithium. This product has been chosen for the availability of the two strengths of tablets the 400mgMR and the 250mg tablet, which enable more flexible dosing)
2. **Continue Priadel® liquid** for patients **currently prescribed the liquid form** of Priadel®: the liquid formulation is not being discontinued.
3. **Continuing Priadel® tablets** for those **currently prescribed the tablet form**, until further guidance is published. This will help to ensure switches are done safely and in a measured manner.

GP practices and CCG medicines management teams will receive:

1. A search strategy to identify patients taking Priadel® tablets and lithium carbonate tablets
2. A risk stratification tool to identify patients at low, medium and high clinical risk for switching
3. An algorithm for managing patients at low and medium risk, and for referring high risk patients back to their mental health team
4. Patient information leaflets (that have been co-designed with patients and lay-members)
5. Process/contacts for mental health teams if advice is needed

Community pharmacies will receive:

1. Patient information leaflets (that have been co-designed with patients and lay-members)
2. Process/contacts if advice is needed if they notice a patient deteriorating

More information will follow, but in the meantime I trust the above is helpful.

Thank you in advance for your professionalism in working together to reassure these patients and keep them safe.

Kind regards

Devina



Dr Devina Halsall

GPhC 2045962

Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer Northwest

NHS England and NHS Improvement