

Our ref: TL/MM

September 2015

King Edward VII Hospital
St Leonards Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 3DP

Tel: 01753 636845

Fax: 01753 636055

Email: WAMCCG.medicines-optimisation-team@nhs.net

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Prescribing changes

Locally, the general practices in Slough that together form the Slough Clinical Commissioning Group have decided to make some changes to our prescribing policies in order to avoid the otherwise likely significant overspend of our budget for this year.

We are responsible for getting the greatest health benefit for the population of Slough from the public money we spend. Were we to take no action, our prescribing budget would be overspent by £600,000. This money would have to come from restricting services to patients, which we are keen to avoid. We can make these changes without in any material way reducing the quality of service we provide to you as a patient. Indeed if these changes produce savings greater than this sum, the balance saved can then be spent on providing additional services to our patients in Slough, for example more GP appointments at weekends and in the evening time, or new cancer services that are badly needed but which we cannot at present afford.

Our prescribing budget is spent only on the best value products; to do otherwise would mean that public money is being wasted. After considering effectiveness, safety, patient factors and value we decided which products will be prescribed locally.

We hope you will support our decisions; our aim is to get the most benefit for the most people. All funds stay within Slough and can be used to improve the NHS locally. The decisions we have made can free up £1 million per year in the local NHS.

Below is a list of items that will not be prescribed locally as an alternative exists that is just as good or better but is better value.

Yours faithfully



Dr Tim Langran
CCG Lead Support Pharmacist
(Slough)



Dr Jim O'Donnell
CCG Clinical Lead



Dr Sufian Jabbar
CCG Prescribing Lead
(Slough)

Item	Recommended alternative
Seretide Evohaler	Sirdupla Inhaler – Contains the same active ingredients, the inhaler works in the same way and has the same effect
Ensure Plus, Ensure Plus Advanced, Ensure Compact, Fortisip or Fortisip Compact	Ensure Shake – Contains a balance of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals
Crestor (Rosuvastatin)	Atorvastatin, Simvastatin or Pravastatin – These statins are highly effective
Symbicort Turbohaler or Seretide Accuhaler	Fostair Nexthaler, Duoresp Spiromax or Relvar Ellipta – The new inhalers are regarded as easier to use and superior to older inhalers
Spiriva (Tiotropium) Inhaler	Incruse Ellipta Inhaler - The new inhaler is regarded as easier to use and superior to older inhalers
Sitagliptin, Saxagliptin & Linagliptin	Alogliptin – This is in the same class and is highly effective
Blood glucose test strips including Advantage Plus, Aviva, Compact, Contour, Freestyle, Freestyle Lite, Freestyle Optium, Glucomen LX, OneTouch Ultra, OneTouch Vita, OneTouch Verio,	Wavesense Jazz Test Strips – These are highly accurate and easy to use
Ezetrol (Ezetimibe) or Inegy	Statins are much more effective. You do not need to be on both a statin and Ezetimibe
Fibrates – Bezafibrate, Ciprofibrate, Fenofibrate, Genfibrozil	Statins are much more effective. You do not need to be on both a statin and fibrate
Prednisolone Soluble Tablets	Standard release tablets can be dissolved in water
Aveeno	Zerodouble Gel – This is a highly effective emollient
Diprobace Cream	Zerobase Cream – This contains the same ingredients and will have the same effect
Doublebase	Zerodouble Gel – This contains the same ingredients and will have the same effect
E45 Cream	Zerocream – This contains the same ingredients and will have the same effect
Epaderm Ointment	Zeroderm Ointment – This contains the same ingredients and will have the same effect
Lymecycline	Doxycycline – This is the same type of antibiotic and will have the same effect
Cialis (Tadalafil)	Sildenafil – This is the same type of medication and will have the same effect
Insulin pen needles - BD Microfine, Mylife Clickfine, Novofine, Unifine	GlucoRx Finepoint needles - Meet same international standards and are compatible with all pens

Vitamin B Compound Tablets	Vitamin B Compound Strong Tablets – The standard tablets contain too low a dose to work
Branded medicines where there is a better value generic version e.g. Nasonex, Cerazette, Movicol, Singulair, Xalatan, Xalacom, Nexium, Arimidex, Plavix, Viagra, Istin, Zocor, Detrusitol, Amias, Aprovel, Cozaar, Subutex, Fosamax, Zimovane, Lipitor, Lustral, Actos, Femara, Mucodyne, Casodex, Zestril, Telfast, Xenical etc.	Generic equivalent – These will contain the same active ingredient and are made to the same standards as the brand version
Asacol (Mesalazine)	Octasa brand of Mesalazine – This is made to be identical to Asacol and will have the same effect
Persantin (Dipyridamole)	This should be stopped and Copidogrel given instead with no Aspirin at the same time - Clopidogrel is now recommended instead because it safer.
Victoza (Liraglutide)	Lyxumia (Lixisenatide) - This is in the same class and is highly effective
Vesicare (Solifenacin)	Trospium modified release - This is in the same class and is highly effective
Optive Eye Drops or Hylo-Tear Eye Drops	Clinitas Carbomer Gel or Sno-Tears Eye Drops – These are highly effective alternatives
Gaviscon	Peptac - This is in the same class and is highly effective
Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg	Monomil brand of ISMN MR 60mg – This contains the same active ingredient and is made to the same standard but is a better value brand
Fluticasone or Flixonase Nasal Spray	Mometasone Nasal Spray - This is in the same class and is highly effective