

Prescribing Hints & Tips

September 2024

PHENERGAN® (PROMETHAZINE) NOW CONTRAINDICATED IN PATIENTS UNDER 6 YEARS OLD

The SPC for Phenergan® (promethazine) liquid was recently updated to include a contraindication for children under 6 years old. The tablets are also contraindicated in children under 6. Therefore, the use of any formulation of promethazine in children under 6 years old is now unlicensed.

MOUNJARO® (TIRZEPATIDE) KWIKPEN® INCIDENTS

Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) is a once weekly GLP-1 receptor agonist available only as a Kwikpen® device which dials up in individual doses of the strength prescribed. Each Kwikpen® contains 4 doses i.e. 28 days supply.

There have been some incidents nationally whereby patients have been dialling up several doses at a time thinking that they needed to dial up to the number of milligrams of their weekly dose, resulting in unintentional overdoses. Please ensure patients are counselled on how to safely use the device when prescribing or dispensing this item. Patient support materials can be accessed [here](#).

COPD EXACERBATIONS AND RESCUE PACKS

In a recent local incident, a patient with COPD received 15 courses of oral steroids and 14 salbutamol inhalers over a 12 month period. Practices are reminded that:

- they should have a process in place for the supply, monitoring and review of exacerbation rescue medication
- reviews should occur regularly and at least at every annual review
- a request for a supply of an exacerbation pack should prompt a review if the practice wasn't notified of the previous course being taken
- a sputum sample must be requested from patients with frequent exacerbations or prescription requests
- exacerbation rescue packs are not recommended on repeat prescription unless there is a robust policy in place to ensure that packs are not issued without review
- think bone health for all patients, but especially those who have required 3 or more courses of steroids over a 12 month period

Please see the local guidance for prescribers on COPD rescue packs here [copd-emergency-supply-medicines-prescribing-information.pdf \(nottsapc.nhs.uk\)](#)

CHANGES TO MICROBIOLOGY CULTURE OF HIGH VAGINAL SWABS (NUH)

Culture and sensitivity testing for high vaginal swabs (HVS) will now be in line with the guidance set in the UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations. They will no longer culture for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* on a HVS, as this is not the optimal sample type for this analysis. See [link](#) for further information.

CHANGES TO REPORTING OF SUSCEPTIBILITY RESULTS (NUH)

The microbiology department have upgraded their laboratory information management/IT system. This will result in new reporting of the 'I' dose-dependent antibiotic susceptible category as 'DS'. See attached letter for further information.

APC AND INTERFACE UPDATE

The latest updates from APC and the Interface team can be accessed in webinar format [here](#). A PDF of the slides is also available on this same page should you wish to access any of the links from the presentation.

MAILING LIST

If you wish to be added or removed from the Prescribing Hints and Tips mailing list, please email e.moncrieff@nhs.net