

June 2019
Issue 4

PRESCRIBING WISE

Stoma Partnership Programme

Drugs of Low Clinical Value (DLCV)

DLCV is a current area of focus for NHSE and the CCGs are being asked to report on their use.

Lidocaine Plasters 5% (Versatis) are only licensed for symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain associated with a previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia PHN).

There is very limited evidence for use in neuropathic pain, therefore these are poor value for money due to the high cost associated. The alternatives that can be used:

Topical treatment for PHN:
Capsaicin 0.075% apply 3-4 times a day

Oral treatment for neuropathic pain:
Amitriptyline, Gabapentin and Duloxetine

More information can be found in the supporting document.

Patients currently using these plasters should be reviewed and either de-prescribed or changed to a suitable alternative. The Optum MMO team can provide further advice and guidance on pain management and support with the reviews.

The CCG have recently partnered with Coloplast to provide ostomate/stoma patient reviews within primary care.

Specialist stoma nurses assess patients and ensure they are receiving the support and education they require.

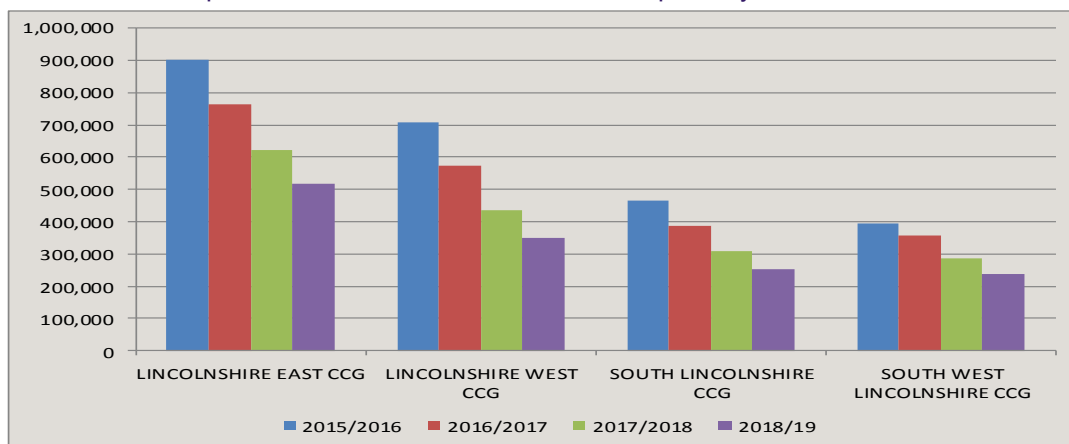
The practices that have taken part so far in LECCG have saved on average £390 per patient per year. These savings will contribute towards the 2019-20 prescribing incentive scheme reduction.

For more information or to sign up please contact:

Emily Topham, Lincolnshire East CCG
01522 515308

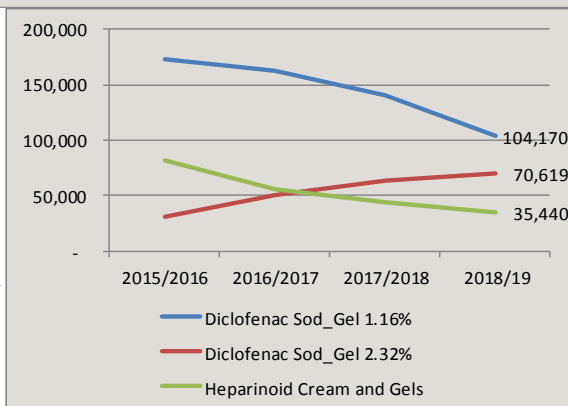
OTC Spend on Minor Pain

Over The Counter (OTC) spend on conditions relating to minor pain, discomfort and fever (e.g. aches and sprains, headache, period pain, back pain) has seen a big reduction over the last 4 years, particularly, since the introduction of the OTC policy. Since 2015/16 £1.13 million has been reduced in spend and each CCG has reduced its spend by at least 40%.



82% of the £1.13m reduced spend has come from 3 main areas: Paracetamol, Co-codamol and Ibuprofen (tablets & capsules).

The graph (right) shows how much the Lincolnshire CCGs are spending on Red/Red drugs in the gel analgesic area. The formulary advises to prescribe ibuprofen gels; with 'Fenbid' being the low cost brand option.



Guidance Documents & Leaflets

- [Summary of local guidance: Conditions for which OTC items should not be routinely prescribed August 2018](#)
- [A5 Non-Prescription pad](#)
- ["You might notice some differences in what your GP prescribes for you"](#)

Optum MMO

Ghost Generics

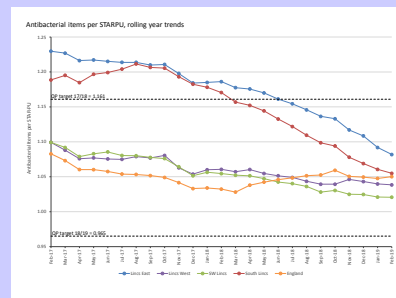
The Optum Embedded Pharmacist team have been working with a number of practices across all 4 CCGs to change patients on Premium Priced Generics and there has been significant cost improvement in this area. Clinicians are reminded that they need to be careful when they select generics on the clinical system. Both TPP and EMIS web have improved their drug selection lists to minimise the risk of selecting premium generics.

The attached document is the Optum protocol for reviewing 'Ghost Generics'.

More information can be found in the supporting document.

Antibiotic Resistance Update

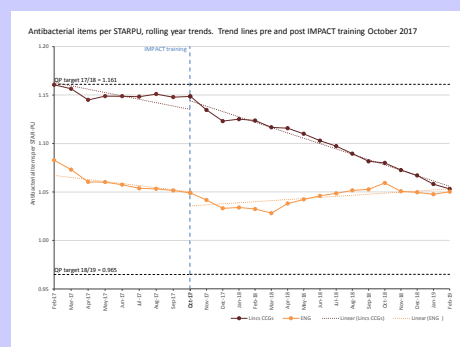
The graph shows a downward trend in the overall number of antibiotic items prescribed since the Optum Embedded Pharmacist rolled out the antibiotic IMPACT educational sessions in Oct 17 and demonstrates sustained improved prescribing behaviour by GPs and ANPs.



Any practices wishing to have this educational session can contact the MMO team :

ohs.mmo.sharedservices@nhs.net

These are really positive results in the fight against antibiotic resistance in Lincolnshire.



OptimiseRx

We have started an evaluation of OptimiseRx, and are requesting assistance from practices to complete this. We have reviewed the reasons why messages are rejected in order to see if we can improve, or remove, some of the messages and increase work flow. Currently, only EMIS users have the option to type dialogue into a feedback textbox, but despite this many users currently type single figures, letters, or single words into the boxes which cannot be used as intelligence. We would like to request going forward you give a brief explanation to help us to make decisions about items that may require change. For SystemOne users this is not possible, however, we would invite you to send feedback and general comments to ben.fawcett@nhs.net.

OptimiseRx has been used in practices for a number of years in Lincolnshire and provides prescribers with best practice messages and information about cost effective prescribing. A number of factors have emerged over the last few months, such as; uptake of a number of different I.T systems in practices, the impact of Brexit on stocks and price fluctuations, which means we need to evaluate the use of this system; to ensure that any ongoing development is relevant, and that any commissioning decisions are justified.

In recent years this product has supported GPs to make prescribing choices to maximise the cost effective opportunities in line with the Prescribing Incentive Scheme, but we are also aware of areas of dissatisfaction with regards to the speed that products out of stock are able to be temporarily suspended, and in some areas the volume of messages being displayed, both of which can be improved.

Managing the OptimiseRx profiles within Lincolnshire is not an insignificant undertaking, and our MMO service Optum dedicate a lot of time to managing formulary products, and the configuration of national and local messages. This continues to be reviewed and fed back for improvement, but we acknowledge that some prescribers have highlighted issues with some messages, and we are taking steps to improve the feedback process by assimilating a log of changes to inform users countywide when these have been rectified. We are also looking into mechanisms that may be able to help us improve the speed at which 'out of stock' items are temporarily withdrawn.