

PACE SHORTS no 4 October 2013 (summarises September meeting of PACEF)



Drug	Indication	Decision	Notes
Linaclotide 290microgram caps (<i>Constella</i>)	IBS with constipation	AMBER	Novel add-on drug - guanylate cyclase - C agonist, increases intestinal fluid & faecal mass. Treatment to be initiated by or on the advice of gastroenterologists. Trial data suggests 50% response rate - review response at 4wks. Adverse effects are mainly GI, diarrhoea, flatulence, abdominal pain etc. £488 p.a.
<i>Renavit</i> (multi-vitamin)	Vitamin supplement for renal dialysis	AMBER	Nutritional supplement containing water soluble vitamins to replace vitamins lost during renal dialysis (£3.50 / month).
Naloxone injection (<i>Prenoxad</i>)	Suspected opioid overdose	GREEN	IM injection of naloxone for administration by non-health professionals for the emergency management of suspected overdose by known drug users.
Desogestrel 75mcg tablets (<i>Aizea, Zellea & Cerelle</i>)	Progestogen only oral contraceptive	GREEN	Lower cost products containing the same progestogen as <i>Cerazette</i> . Comparative costs (84 tabs) <i>Cerelle</i> - £4.30; <i>Aizea</i> £5.21; <i>Zellea</i> £3.51; desogestrel 75mcg prescribed generically £7.12; <i>Cerazette</i> £8.68.
<i>Cimizt</i> (ethinylestradiol 30mcg & desogestrel 150mcg)	Combined oral contraceptive	GREEN	Lower cost product, containing same hormones as <i>Marvelon</i> & <i>Gedarel 30/150</i> . Comparative costs of 3 x 21 tabs - <i>Cimizt</i> £4.53, <i>Gedarel 30/150</i> £4.93, <i>Marvelon</i> £6.45.
Ketoconazole 200mg tablets (<i>Nizoral</i>)	Antifungal	RED-RED	MHRA advice - should not be used for fungal infections because of unacceptable risk of liver injury - hepatitis, cirrhosis & liver failure. Can continue to use it for Cushing's syndrome (unlicensed).

Other news

The MHRA issued advice that **metoclopramide** should be restricted to short-term use (up to 5 days) following a review of neurological side effects. PACEF was concerned that this advice had major implications & subsequently a manufacturer of metoclopramide has challenged the advice which will now be reviewed by the regulators.

A large-scale trial has investigated the safety of **tiotropium** *Spiriva Respimat* vs. tiotropium Handihaler and found *Respimat* to be non-inferior to *Handihaler* with respect to death. PACEF are satisfied that the study, which was sufficiently powered to estimate a mortality difference, provides sufficient reassurance to resolve the safety concerns surrounding *Spiriva Respimat* . Both tiotropium products are now classified GREEN.

Practitioners are reminded that when administering multiple actuations of **salbutamol** pMDI with a spacer device the drug should be administered by repeated single actuations of the inhaler into the spacer, each followed by inhalation rather than multiple actuations into the spacer followed by inhalation (BTS guidance).

Oxybutynin 2.5mg in 5ml elixir (*Ditropan*) has been relaunched (£6.88 for 150ml)