

Drug	Indication	Decision	Notes
<i>Bexsero</i>	Vaccine against meningococcal disease caused by <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> group B.	RED-RED	The JCVI has not recommended it for routine infant / adolescent immunisation programme. Public Health England is developing guidance on management of outbreaks of meningococcal disease and also expected to be included in DH "Green Book" for use in high risk individuals. Traffic light status will be reviewed once guidance is issued. (Post meeting note 21st March: This is likely to be amended following the revised JCVI position that MenB vaccination will be incorporated into the infant schedule subject to a cost-effective price being secured)
<i>SunVit D3</i> - colecalciferol 20,000 IU tablets	Vitamin D deficiency	GREEN	Approved as an alternative high strength oral colecalciferol formulation. Prescribers are advised to prescribe colecalciferol products by brand as open generic prescriptions can prove very costly. Treatment guidance is under revision to take account of the increased range of products & management of children.
Ibandronic acid 150mg generic tablets	Monthly oral treatment for osteoporosis	GREEN	Low cost generic ibandronic acid 150mg tablets are available. Alendronic acid 70mg and risedronate 35mg are still preferred first-line options on grounds of efficacy and cost. Monthly 150mg ibandronate can be considered second line where compliance with a weekly tablet is a problem.
Modified release venlafaxine	Antidepressant	GREEN	Lincolnshire Joint Formulary advice amended to contain details of preferred lower cost brands of modified release venlafaxine - <i>Depefex XL</i> caps, <i>Venaxx XL</i> caps or <i>Venlalic XL</i> tabs. To minimise costs prescribers should specify the brand name when prescribing.
Fentanyl patches	Opioid analgesic	GREEN	Additional lower cost patches now available. <i>Mezolar</i> and <i>Opiodur</i> join <i>Fencino</i> and <i>Matrifen</i> as approved lower cost matrix fentanyl patches.

Reference: *PACE Bulletin* Vol 8 No 4 (Feb 2014)

Other news

PACEF has approved a range of **low cost blood glucose meters**. *PACE Bulletin* Vol 8 No 2 provides full details. The meters were assessed against compliance with accuracy standards as stipulated in ISO 15197:2013. memory capacity 450 tests or more, test results not being easily deletable, ability to download, store and manipulate results within a personal computer, calibration not required, automatic turn on when strip inserted and results reported in mmol/l.

PACEF has revised its guidance on the prescribing of **Gluten Free (GF) Foods**. *PACE Bulletin* Vol 8 No 3 provides full details. Prescribing of staple GF food defined as bread, bread mixes, pasta, flour, pizza bases, breakfast cereals, crackers and crispbreads is supported in line with Coeliac UK guidelines on quantities provided. Currently 13% by volume and 6% by cost of GF foods prescribed in Lincolnshire are for non-staple foods. Prescribers are advised to ensure use of non-staple foods is kept to a minimum.