

Summary of Lothian Joint Formulary Amendments

The purpose of this summary is to detail the main changes to the LJF sections and provide additional information on the reasons for some of the changes. The website chapters should be referred to for full details. These changes have been approved by the Co-Chairs of the Formulary Committee.

April 2020

Chapter 1 Gastro-intestinal System - Adults

- The recommendation in the LJF GI webtable for antacid and oxetacaine oral suspension [unlicensed] in the for short term management of odynophagia/pain post-endoscopic radiofrequency ablation has been amended from 'Specialist Use only' to 'Specialist Initiation' to enable prescribing and dispensing to continue in primary care in line with current practice. This medicine forms part of approved treatment protocols for this indication.

Chapter 3 Respiratory System - Adults

3.2 (a) inhaled corticosteroids

- Soprobec[®] (beclometasone dipropionate) has replaced Clenil Modulite[®] (also beclometasone dipropionate) as the first choice MDI, due to supply problems with Clenil Modulite. The prescribing notes advise that as for Clenil Modulite[®], Soprobec[®] should be prescribed by brand name to avoid inadvertent switching to a different MDI device with a different potency. A new prescribing note has been added to advise that Soprobec[®] has a slightly different colour range to Clenil Modulite[®] and that patients should be reassured it is equivalent to their previous device.

3.2 (b) other corticosteroids

- The prednisolone dose for exacerbation of COPD has been amended from 40mg for 5 days to 30mg for 5 days to reflect current NICE guidance. This change will be used to support prescribers in primary care by introducing a short cut to prescribing COPD rescue packs on eLJF-CLINICAL.

Chapter 5 Infections - Adults

5.0 (b) Respiratory

- The LJF has been amended to align with the NHS Lothian Antimicrobial Management Team (AMT) guidance for frail elderly patients in the community particularly those in care homes or nursing homes with suspected Covid-19 infection or lower respiratory tract infection.
- Clarithromycin is not recommended routinely for patients with CRB65 1-2 or CURB65 2 based on NICE guideline [NG138], September 2019.
- Clarithromycin is no longer a treatment option for patients with community acquired pneumonia (for CRB65 score of 0).
- For patients with community acquired pneumonia (for CRB65 score 1-2 and at home), if atypical bacterial pathogens are suspected, clarithromycin 500mg every 12 hours can be added to amoxicillin for 5 days (no need to add clarithromycin to doxycycline).

Chapter 6 Endocrine System – Adults

6.5.1 (a) Growth hormone

- A new section has been added with recommendations on the use of growth hormone in adults, adapted from the LJF child section. The first choice is somatropin (Synthetic Human Growth Hormone), to be initiated on specialist advice.

Chapter 9 Nutrition and Blood – Adults

9.1.2 (a) Drugs used in megaloblastic anaemia - vitamin B₁₂ deficiency

- A prescribing note has been added with a link to the British Society for Haematology (BSH) guidance (April 2020) to support prescribing of B₁₂ supplements during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chapter 10 Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases – Adults

10.1.3 Biologic therapies

- The recommendations have been aligned with the NHS Lothian biologics treatment pathways.

Chapter 13 Skin – Adults

13.5.2 Preparations for psoriasis

- Preparations containing salicylic acid and betamethasone (Diprosalic[®]) have been added.

13.6 (b) rosacea

- The doses for azelaic acid, metronidazole and doxycycline have been amended to be in line with BNFc.

Chapter 3 Respiratory System - Children

3.2 (a) inhaled corticosteroids

- Soprobe[®] (beclometasone dipropionate) has replaced Clenil Modulite[®] (also beclometasone dipropionate) as the first choice MDI, due to supply problems with Clenil Modulite. A new prescribing note has been added to advise that Soprobe[®] has a slightly different colour range to Clenil Modulite[®] and that patients should be reassured it is equivalent to their previous device.