

Tablet Press

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NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG



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Happy New Year



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Urgent prescriptions via EPS

There has been a recent incident in the Nottingham area whereby a patient did not receive an urgent prescription for amoxicillin. The patient was seen at home by a GP and prescribed Amoxicillin for a suspected chest infection. The prescription was sent via EPS to the patient's usual pharmacy and although downloaded, it was not dispensed as the pharmacy was unaware that it was required urgently. As the EPS system does not contain the functionality to mark a script as urgent, it is recommended that this system is not used for urgent prescriptions unless the pharmacy is alerted via a phone call about the patient need. Please see attached document for further details.

Antihypertensive drugs and risk of incident gout among patients with hypertension: population based case-control study

It has been flagged that whilst many clinicians are aware of the link between thiazide diuretics and an increased risk of gout they may not be aware that ACEIs also have an association. The findings from this BMJ paper <http://www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.d8190> suggest that calcium channel blockers and losartan may be protective against the risk of gout among people with hypertension due to these drugs potentially having urate lowering properties. In contrast, diuretics, β blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, and non-losartan angiotensin II receptor blockers are associated with an increased risk of gout. These data may have practical implications for choosing the appropriate antihypertensive drugs in patients with hypertension, a common comorbidity of gout.

UK government to reclassify pregabalin and gabapentin after rise in deaths

A Home Office consultation, which proposes reclassifying gabapentin and pregabalin has been launched in response to growing concerns that, despite these drugs being linked with misuse and addiction they are being prescribed too readily. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs said that prescribing increased by 350% for pregabalin and 150% for gabapentin in just five years. Official figures show that in England and Wales the number of deaths linked to pregabalin rose from four in 2012 to 111 in 2016. The number linked to gabapentin rose from eight to 59 in the same period. This figure is probably a significant underestimate as not all toxicology units routinely screen for these drugs. If the government proceeds with the reclassification, patients would not be able to get the drugs on repeat prescription so the public consultation is to assess the impact this will have on the healthcare sector.

Meta-analysis of trials of antibiotic prophylaxis <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/5/e015233>

A BMJ open meta-analysis of antibiotic prophylaxis in UTI has been published highlighting the lack of good quality evidence of the efficacy of UTI prophylaxis. The total number of patients **for all 3 trials** was fewer than 500. No trial was for longer than 12 months and no evidence was found at all in men or frail older patients. The one trial that looked at resistance found a dramatic increase in resistant organisms in urine and faeces. Current PHE guidance is that prophylaxis for recurrent UTI should only be for 3-6 months. First line treatment for recurrent UTI is simple measures including hydration. Second line is standby or post coital antibiotics, as appropriate, with prophylaxis only considered third line if at all.

Oral tacrolimus products: reminder to prescribe and dispense by brand name only

As there are new tacrolimus products on the market or due for launch, the MHRA is advising that its previous recommendation that all oral tacrolimus products should be prescribed and dispensed by brand name only remains in place (and applies to all tacrolimus products).

Peppa Pig piling pressure on NHS with 'unrealistic' image of GPs

As a light-hearted start to 2018 it was felt that those of you who have "watched" Peppa Pig may be interested in a BMJ article whereby Peppa's highly dedicated and responsive GP, Dr Brown Bear, is blamed for fostering unrealistic expectations about family doctors by providing "clinically inappropriate" home visits and prescriptions. One of the examples cited is the episode where Dr Brown Bear makes an urgent home visit to a three-year-old piglet with a facial rash and advises the parents the condition is "nothing serious" and offers a dose of medicine, despite it probably being viral in origin <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/11/peppa-pig-piling-pressure-nhs-unrealistic-image-gps/>

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link

<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

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