

December 2007

HPV VACCINE: Recently the Scottish Government announced its intention to provide a national immunisation programme starting in September 2008, for human papilloma virus (HPV), to protect against cervical cancer. The vaccine will be delivered mainly through a school programme for girls aged 12 to 13. A one-off catch up campaign will take place over two to three years to include girls under 18 at the start of the programme.

Two HPV vaccines are licensed in the UK, Gardasil[®] and Cervarix[®]. Both vaccines protect against the two main genotypes (16 and 18) associated with 70% of all cervical cancers. In addition, the former protects against two other types of HPV (6 and 11) which cause most cases of genital warts.

Both vaccines require a three dose schedule over six months at around £250 per course. The total projected cost to NHS GGC is projected to be £2.2m each year and £10m for the catch up assuming complete uptake.

The vaccine does not protect against existing HPV infection contracted before immunisation, hence the rationale to target immunisation at the younger age groups. Current upper age limit of the licensed products are 26 and 25 years for Gardasil[®] and Cervarix[®] respectively.

Advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is that routine immunisation for women older than 18 is not cost effective. GPs who are asked to provide immunisation at NHS expense for individuals between 18 and 26 years would need to consider whether such exceptional prescribing is justifiable.

Further information on the local implementation plan will be issued in due course.

For more details, see the Health Protection Scotland Newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/yrems9>

HOLIDAY ADDICTIONS SERVICES: There are more "take-home" methadone doses than usual during Christmas and New Year. Please remind patients of the importance of safe storage of methadone. They should keep it out of reach and out of sight, locked away if possible.

Controlled drug prescriptions for instalment dispensing must state the amount to be supplied per instalment and the interval between



instalments. Directions for take home instalments must be unambiguous, eg "dispense on previous working day when closed or public holiday".

An addiction services out of hours advisory service will be available to pharmacists over the holiday period. This is a professional to professional service available to community pharmacists for advice on addiction related matters on 25th and 26th Dec and 1st and 2nd of Jan from 10AM to 6PM.

Contact numbers are 0141 276 6600 and 6612.

TAKE HOME NALOXONE PILOT: Glasgow Addiction Services is currently involved in a pilot developing take home naloxone to service users and their families using a Patient Group Direction (PGD) for supply.

- Naloxone is an opioid antagonist used to treat respiratory depression caused by opioid overdose
- The number of opiate drug related deaths has increased in Glasgow over the years and this pilot is one measure to address this
- Training sessions are being held in the Glasgow Drug Crisis Centre in West Street for service users and their families.
- Patients can self-refer or be referred by their GP, nurse, pharmacist or community addiction team. The contact number for referral is 0141 420 6969.
- Naloxone is supplied in a yellow plastic pack containing a 2ml pre-filled syringe of naloxone 1mg/ml, two needles and information leaflet
- Syringe packs are only given to service users and their families after their participation in basic life support and overdose awareness training led by qualified instructors
- Training advises that 0.4ml of a dose should be injected and repeated at two minute intervals if necessary. The effects of naloxone last for about 20 minutes.
- Promotional material will be sent to local addiction centres, GP surgeries and pharmacies

For further information contact: Carole Hunter, Lead Pharmacist, Addiction Services on 0141 276 6612 or Jennifer Kelly and Duncan Hill, Specialist Pharmacists 0141 276 6625.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ALL AT THE PRESCRIBING TEAM AT GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE

CONTROLLED DRUG INSPECTORS: Two new members June Mackay and Sandra McLintock have been appointed to the Controlled Drug Governance Team as Controlled Drug Inspectors. Both are based at Queen's Park House, Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. They will be visiting sites throughout Greater Glasgow and Clyde to carry out inspections and destruction of controlled drugs.

June and Sandra can be contacted by telephone on 201 5348 for any controlled drug queries. If you want to contact them by email their addresses are: june.mackay@sgh.scot.nhs.uk and Sandra.mclintock@sgh.scot.nhs.uk.

SOLO STAR® INSULINS: The Solo Star® presentations of insulin glargine and insulin glulisine are yet to be evaluated by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) for appropriateness of use in NHS Scotland and as such are considered non-Formulary presentations of Formulary medicines. The prescribing or advice to use these presentations should be minimised until the SMC and local GGC Formulary evaluations are completed. All other existing preparations of Lantus® and Apidra® are available for use in line with existing Formulary guidance.

LIBRARY SERVICES: Library services are available to all staff and students working within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. NHS GGC library services are working towards providing a seamless service for all staff and now operate as a library network. There are 14 libraries across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Each library has its own collections which can be accessed and used by staff across the health board area.

- 🔔 Beatson Oncology Centre
- 🔔 Dalian House
- 🔔 Gartnavel General Hospital
- 🔔 Glasgow Royal Infirmary
- 🔔 Gartnavel Royal Hospital
- 🔔 Inverclyde Royal Hospital
- 🔔 Royal Alexandra Hospital

VARENICLINE: Since its launch in December 2006, 15,000 to 20,000 patients have used it as an aid to smoking cessation. Up to 26th September 2007 the MHRA had received 839 reports of suspected adverse drug reactions with 46 reports of depression (generally in patients with a history of psychiatric illness) and 16 reports of suicidal ideation. This is being monitored closely by the MHRA and prescribers should consider this before prescribing for patients with a history of psychiatric illness. As smoking cessation can be associated with symptoms of depression, anxiety, insomnia and irritability it is not clear at this stage whether these reports can be attributed solely to this drug.

The SPC for varenicline also states that it can cause dizziness and somnolence and thus may affect the ability to drive or operate machinery. Patients should be advised to avoid these activities until it is known whether they are affected.

For information go to <http://tinyurl.com/34w53q>

For local guidance on the referral pathway for patients attending Smoking Concerns groups, please see the attached flowchart.

- 🔔 Royal Hospital for Sick Children – Yorkhill
- 🔔 Sandyford Initiative
- 🔔 Southern General Hospital
- 🔔 Stobhill Hospital
- 🔔 Vale of Leven Hospital
- 🔔 Victoria Infirmary
- 🔔 Western Infirmary

The procedure to join is to complete and sign a form for the particular library you wish to access. Membership forms are available from each library site and can also be downloaded from the library intranet page which is found on Staffnet, they can also be accessed from the library website (see below) by clicking on the 'library management manual' link on the menu at the left hand side. Joining entitles you to borrow items (eg books, audio-visual resources etc) from that library. Alternatively the local site library can request items from other NHSGGC libraries on your behalf.

LITERATURE SEARCH SERVICE: The libraries can carry out literature searches to support clinical practice and work related research. This service is free to all staff. To make a request either complete a literature search request form at your local library site or visit www.gglss.scot.nhs.uk and fill out an online form.

CURRENT AWARENESS BULLETINS: These provide details of recent publications in a given subject area, and provide a quick and easy way of keeping up to date. Current Awareness Bulletins are produced by the library service for all NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Staff. To view a full list of bulletins available, ask at your local library site or visit www.nhsggc.org.uk/libraryservices and click on Current Awareness on the left hand menu.

TRAINING: Tuition and advice is available on how to make the best use of the NHS Scotland e-Library. Contact your local NHS library to find out about the training sessions on offer. For information go to www.nhsggc.org.uk/libraryservices