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10th October 2022

Circular 029/22

Medicines Management Programme – Preferred Drugs Initiative

Dear Pharmacist,

Please find enclosed a communication from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead of the HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) in relation to the Preferred Drugs initiative.

Further information on each of the preferred drugs is available on the MMP website at www.hse.ie/yourmedicines.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan', written over a horizontal line.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement

Re: Update on the HSE - MMP Preferred Drugs initiative

10 October 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The HSE - Medicines Management Programme (MMP) Preferred Drugs initiative has been ongoing since 2013 and aims to promote safe, effective and cost-effective use of the most commonly prescribed medicines in Ireland. The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on the initiative and to highlight changes to the preferred drug of choice in a number of therapeutic areas.

The Preferred Drugs initiative identifies a single preferred drug within a therapeutic drug class and offers useful guidance on selecting, prescribing and monitoring the drug for a particular condition. For each preferred drug, a detailed evaluation report with 'Prescribing Tips' are available on the MMP website (www.hse.ie/yourmedicines) in the sections entitled *Preferred Drugs* and *Prescribing Tips and Tools*.

The therapeutic drug class and the respective preferred drug is outlined below with changes to the preferred drug of choice highlighted in red.

Therapeutic Drug Class	Preferred Drug	Review
Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor	Ramipril	Updated 2022
Angiotensin-II Receptor Blocker (ARB)	Candesartan	Updated 2022
Beta Blocker	Bisoprolol	Published 2016
Calcium Channel Blocker (CCB)	Amlodipine	Published 2016
Oral Anticoagulant	Warfarin	Updated 2019
Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC)	Apixaban	
Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI)	Pantoprazole	Updated 2019 (New)
Serotonin Noradrenaline Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI)	Venlafaxine	Updated 2021
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI)	Sertraline	Updated 2021 (New)
Statin	Atorvastatin	Updated 2020 (New)
Urology (Urinary incontinence, frequency and overactive bladder)	Tolterodine extended release (ER)	Under review

In 2021, total expenditure under the Community Drug Schemes on medicines in these therapeutic categories reached approximately €300 million, with preferred drugs accounting for 42.95% of this expenditure. The MMP has reviewed this data and would like to highlight the scope to increase prescribing rates of preferred drugs in all therapeutic areas, particularly in relation to proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). If all patients prescribed esomeprazole (non-preferred PPI), were switched to the preferred PPI pantoprazole, savings in the region of € 6.7 million per annum could be achieved. In total, up to € 13 million per annum could be saved by switching to the preferred drug of choice in the ten therapeutic drug classes covered by the initiative.

Prescribing the preferred drugs will ensure both quality prescribing while also achieving value for money and cost savings for the HSE and for patients who pay for their medicines.

Please find below an updated version of the preferred drugs poster. I wish to thank you for your cooperation with prescribing preferred drugs to date and for your ongoing support for the initiative.

With best wishes,



Professor Michael Barry

National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme. www.hse.ie/yourmedicines



HSE - Medicines Management Programme (MMP) Preferred Drugs



MEDICINES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor	Ramipril
Angiotensin-II Receptor Blocker (ARB)	Candesartan
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Oral Anticoagulant	Warfarin
Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC)	Apixaban
Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI)	Pantoprazole <small>(New 2019)</small>
Serotonin Noradrenaline Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI)	Venlafaxine
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI)	Sertraline <small>(New 2021)</small>
Statin	Atorvastatin <small>(New 2020)</small>
Urology (Urinary incontinence, frequency and overactive bladder)	Tolterodine ER*

Find us on: www.hse.ie/yourmedicines

Email: mmp@hse.ie

 @MedMgmtProg

*ER = Extended Release

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