

Shortage of Flixonase® Nasules

(fluticasone propionate nasal drops 400 micrograms (1mg/ml))

Date: 24th September 2019

Description of products affected

- Flixonase® (fluticasone propionate) nasal drops 400 micrograms (1mg/ml) are indicated for the regular treatment of nasal polyps and associated symptoms of nasal obstruction.
- In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flixonase® (fluticasone propionate) nasules are:
 - **Recommended SECOND line** after mometasone nasal spray for the management of nasal polyps in chronic rhinosinusitis. Flixonase (fluticasone propionate) nasules should be prescribed for a 6-week course and if treatment successful patient can then be switched back to a nasal steroid spray.
 - **Initiated by a Specialist (No Shared Care Guideline) as SECOND line** therapy to betamethasone soluble tablets for the management of oral lichen planus in adults and children 16 years and over (off-label indication). These should only be used first line only where betamethasone soluble (licensed treatment) is unavailable or contraindicated.

Background

- Allen & Hanburys Ltd the manufacturer of Flixonase nasules® have advised that Flixonase® nasules are currently out of stock and it is expected these will be back in stock mid-November.

Alternative agents and management options

- The patient should be encouraged to try several pharmacies in order to fulfil their prescription as different pharmacies use a range of wholesalers and distributors. The patient may wish to ring pharmacies in advance of attending to ascertain local availability.
- Patient will need to be individually reviewed taking into consideration the indication for use, their clinical history and any previous therapies that have been tried and been unsuccessful or are contraindicated.
- It is important to involve any patients (and their carers, as appropriate) in the discussion regarding any planned change to their medication **BEFORE** making any changes.
- If no supplies of Flixonase nasules are available locally the following management options may be considered.

Nasal polyps in chronic rhinosinusitis

- **Review duration of treatment with Flixonase (fluticasone propionate) nasules.** These should be prescribed for a 6-week course and if treatment successful patient can then be switched back to a nasal steroid spray.
- **If a treatment course is still required and needs completing mometasone nasal spray is recommended as first line option for the management of nasal polyps in chronic rhinosinusitis.** It is licensed for the treatment of nasal polyps in adults 18

years and over and for use in adults and children 3 years of age and older to treat the symptoms of seasonal allergic or perennial allergic rhinitis. Mometasone nasal spray may be purchased for patients aged 18 years and over from a Community Pharmacy where the patient is both willing and able in line with our Self-Care policy.

- The Medicines Optimisation Team have confirmed that stock of mometasone nasal spray is **available** from all 3 major wholesalers: AAH, Alliance Healthcare and Phoenix.
- If mometasone nasal spray is not clinically appropriate or is contraindicated for the individual patient, specialist input from ENT may be required for alternative management options during the shortage period.
- Other corticosteroids nasal sprays are on formulary but are NOT licensed for the treatment of nasal polyps:
 - Beclomethasone nasal spray is licensed in adults and children over 6 years for the prophylaxis and treatment of perennial and seasonal allergic rhinitis including hay fever, and vasomotor rhinitis. Beclomethasone Nasal spray may be purchased for adults aged 18 years and over from a Community Pharmacy where the patient is both willing and able in line with our Self-Care policy.
 - Flixonase nasal spray is restricted to HOSPITAL only and is licensed for the prophylaxis and treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis (including hay fever) and perennial rhinitis in adults and children over 4 years of age. In Primary Care, Flixonase nasal spray may be purchased for adults aged 18 years and over from a Community Pharmacy where the patient is both willing and able in line with our Self-Care policy.

Oral lichen planus

- **Betamethasone soluble tablets (licensed treatment) is first line for the treatment of oral lichen planus** and this may be considered as a suitable alternative for patients who have not previously tried this treatment and have no contraindications to its use.
- The Medicines Optimisation Team have confirmed that stock of betamethasone 500mcg soluble tablets are **available** from all 3 of the major wholesalers: AAH, Alliance Healthcare and Phoenix.
- If betamethasone soluble tablets are not clinically appropriate or are contraindicated for the patient, input from the patient's specialist in charge of their care (i.e. dermatology or ENT) may be required.

References

1. Allen & Hanburys Ltd. Flixonase Nasule Drops. SPC, date of revision of the text, 16 March 2018: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5503/smpc>
2. RPH Pharmaceuticals AB. Betamethasone 500 microgram Soluble Tablets. SPC, date of revision of the text, 19 March 2018: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9098/smpc>
3. Cipla EU. Mometasone furoate 50 micrograms/actuation nasal spray, suspension. SPC, date of revision of the text, 24 November 2017: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/10299/smpc#>
4. GlaxoSmithKline UK. Beconase Aqueous Nasal Spray. SPC, date of revision of the text, 19 January 2018: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/844/smpc>
5. GlaxoSmithKline UK. Flixonase Aqueous Nasal Spray. SPC, date of revision of the text, 8 March 2018: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/845>
6. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Formulary. Available at: <http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughformulary.nhs.uk/default.asp>

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