Think Medicines!

NHS
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group

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Safety

Cortiment® 9mg prolonged release tablets

Cortiment® 9mg prolonged release tablets is one of 3 brands of oral budesonide licensed in the UK for inducing remission in mild to moderate active ulcerative colitis in adults for whom aminosalicylate treatment is not sufficient.

Oral buoneside does not appear on the C&P CCG drug formulary but there is a small amount of specialist initiated prescribing within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG. Only initiated (on an individual patient basis) when formulary products have been shown to be ineffective, not tolerated or contraindicated.

There is potential for confusion between oral budesonide branded products because the licensed indications, dose forms and dosing schedules differ; Budenofalk and Entocort 3mg are prescribed as 3 capsules daily whereas **Cortiment® dosing is one 9mg tablet daily**. Confusion between the other oral budesonide brands is possible as the licensed indications, dose forms and dosing schedules are different, e.g. Budenofalk and Entocort 3mg prescribed as 3 capsules daily whereas **Cortiment® dosing is one 9mg tablet daily**.

http://www.ukmi.nhs.uk/filestore/ukmiaps/BudesonideCortimentOct2015.pdf

UKMi Recommendations (●) for prescribing oral budesonide

- Prescribing and dispensing systems (both electronic and paper-based) should be reviewed to minimise the possibility of prescribing or selecting the wrong budesonide product.
- Careful counselling and advice for patients to ensure that they are aware of the dosing schedule of their medication. This is particularly important for patients previously prescribed a budesonide product for which the number of capsules/tablets taken was different.
- The need to be aware of the Cortiment® contraindication for patients with a soya or peanut allergy, particularly if switching from the other brands of budesonide (Budenofalk and Entocort) for which this contraindication does not apply.

Good practice would be **NOT** to switch between these products without specialist advice.

Inappropriate doses of naloxone

Support to minimise the risk of distress and death

In November 2014 a Stage One Alert was issued to draw attention to the safety implications of inappropriate doses of the opioid/opiate antagonist naloxone. http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/psa-naloxone-supp-info.pdf. Legislation has now been passed to make naloxone more widely available from October 2015 and a Stage Two Resources Alert has been published to raise awareness of the resources that have been developed by NHS England to support development of implementation plans.

The new alert supports all providers of NHS funded care to ensure local protocols and training related to use of naloxone reflect best practice. Preliminary advice has been published by the working group updating the 2007 Drug misuse and dependence – UK guidelines on clinical management on naloxone before addressing its supply and use more fully in the published update planned for 2016.

The preliminary advice covers;

- Naloxone dosing in overdose situations
- Take-home naloxone products that can be supplied
- Training that should be provided

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/chairsletter-naloxone-22july2015.pdf

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