

Dear Colleague

As part of the 2019-2020 Prescribing Quality Incentive Scheme, one of the targets is for the nominated practice Prescribing Lead to implement bimonthly prescribing actions within the practice, and to feedback to the Medicines Management Team.

As practices may be aware, tadalafil, including once daily preparations, are non-formulary and not recommended locally for prescribing. Tadalafil (Cialis) once daily is also part of the NHS England national guidance on '*Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care*' (November 2017, updated June 2019), which supports prescribers in deprescribing once daily tadalafil in all patients:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf>

For the September/October 2019 action, please review the following points regarding the prescribing of tadalafil (Cialis):

- 1) Review and discontinue the prescribing of **once daily** tadalafil and Cialis (2.5mg and 5mg tablets), in accordance with the NHS England recommendation.
- 2) Review the prescribing of **on demand** tadalafil and Cialis (10mg and 20mg tablets) to ensure that patients meet the NHS SLS criteria for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (this is required for all treatments except generic sildenafil).

SLS criteria - treatment on the NHS should only be made in men who:

- Have diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, poliomyelitis, prostate cancer, severe pelvic injury, single gene neurological disease, spina bifida or spinal cord injury.
- Are receiving dialysis for renal failure.
- Have had radical pelvic surgery, prostatectomy or kidney transplant.
- Were receiving Caverject, Erecnos, MUSE, Viagra or Viridal for ED, at the expense of the NHS, on 14th September 1998.

If the patient does not fulfil NHS SLS criteria for the prescribing of drugs for erectile dysfunction, the use of tadalafil should be discontinued, and the only PDE5 inhibitor that they would be eligible for on the NHS is generic sildenafil.

- 3) Review the **quantity** of **on demand** tadalafil and Cialis (10mg and 20mg tablets) on prescription. Treatment quantity prescribed on the NHS is restricted to 4 tablets per month. The Medicines Management Team would not routinely expect GPs to be prescribing more than one treatment of on demand PDE5 inhibitor therapy a week.
- 4) Review the prescribing of **branded** Cialis (10mg and 20mg tablets) on prescription. It is more cost effective to prescribe Cialis generically as tadalafil. Cost of Cialis 10mg tablets is £28.88, compared to a cost of £1.66 for generic tadalafil 10mg tablets (4 tablets). Cost of Cialis 20mg tablets is £28.88, compared to a cost of £2.12 for generic tadalafil 20mg tablets (4 tablets).

Please also note that PDE5 inhibitors are available for patients to self-purchase over the counter and can be supplied via the community pharmacy PGD route.

Please provide brief feedback to the Medicines Management Team by 31st October 2019 to confirm that this review has been undertaken in your practice (prescribing.mailbox@nhs.net). Please note that completion of this action qualifies for double points.

If you require any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact the Medicines Management Team on 01375 365811.