

## Monthly Prescribing Recommendation January 2015

### Galantamine MR

Your CCG supported the principle of asking GP practices to focus on monthly prescribing topics to deliver further prescribing cost efficiencies. Prescribing is a major contributor to the CCG's overall QIPP plan and the realistic ambition of financial balance. Achieving the latter is essential to qualify for the quality premium payment that can bring significant financial benefits to the CCG, and allow re-investment in primary care in subsequent years. Practices, therefore, are being asked to complete the relative actions before the end of the stated period.

**During January, we ask that practices review their prescribing of Galantamine MR capsules and switch to Gatalin XL or another low cost MR brand where appropriate.**

#### Background

Whilst we normally recommend generic prescribing, the Drug Tariff price for modified release galantamine is significantly more expensive than some branded-generic products. Gatalin XL is one brand that offers good value and therefore we are asking practices to switch patients onto Gatalin XL or another low cost brand. TEWV are supportive of this approach. In HRW CCG the annual spend on galantamine MR preparations was £29,421 (Nov 13 - Oct 14). The potential savings from a switch to a low cost brand such as Gatalin XL are approximately £14,700 per annum. Figure 1 on the next page shows the actual spend on galantamine MR per practice.

Product	Category C Tariff Price	Gatalin XL
Galantamine sustained release capsules 8mg x28	£51.88	£25.94
Galantamine sustained release capsules 16mg x28	£64.90	£32.45
Galantamine sustained release capsules 24mg x28	£79.80	£39.90

Prices correct as of December 2014

#### Recommendations

**Practices are asked to review their prescribing of Galantamine MR and Reminyl XL and switch to Gatalin XL or another low cost brand where appropriate.**

Please ensure that patients and their carers understand that they are being maintained on the same drug but a different brand, especially considering the nature of the condition being treated.

The prescribing support team are available to help practices implement this change and a protocol for this switch including a sample letter to patients/carers is available on request. HRW versions of SystmOne and EMIS formularies will be amended to incorporate this recommendation.

Local community pharmacies have been e-mailed to inform them that practices will be undertaking this switch, but please notify local pharmacies in advance of the switch to enable effective management of stock. In addition, some patients may receive their medication in monitored dosage systems, so we would advise liaising with the appropriate pharmacy regarding these patients.

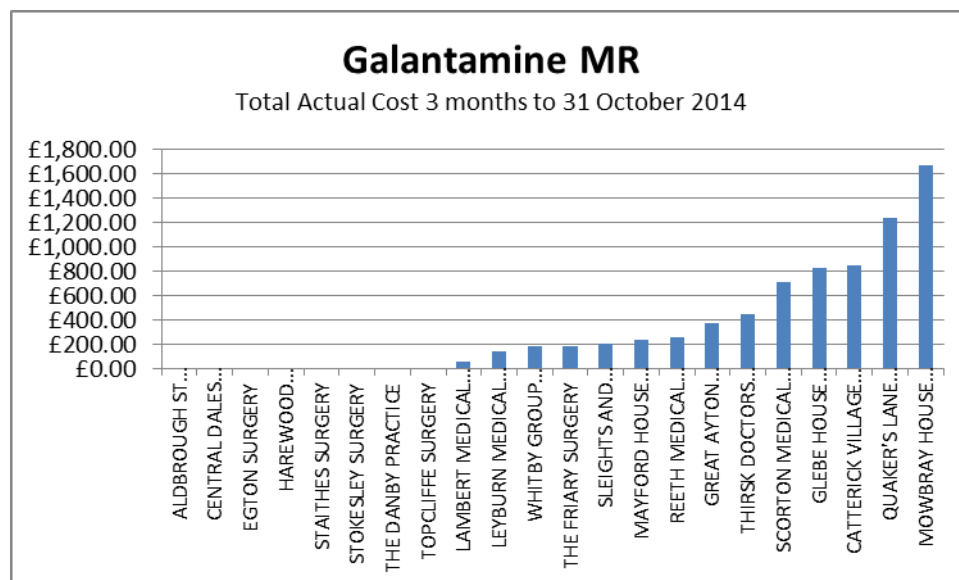
Whilst undertaking this switch, we would recommend that practices ensure that all patients are receiving regular review by specialist services provided by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS

Foundation Trust. The specialist service will communicate the frequency of the review to the surgery.

Full prescribing details can be found at:

Gatalin XL: <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/28287>

Figure 1



Should you have any queries, recommendations or ideas about these or future initiatives then we would be pleased to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

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