

## Monthly Prescribing Recommendation October 2015

### Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg

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. Please note that the prescribing incentive scheme for 2015/16 awards for "agreement to and active change in prescribing as a result of the circulation of monthly prescribing topics to GP practices".

**During October, we ask that practices review their branded and generic prescribing of Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg and switch to a low cost brand such as Chemydur XL 60mg tablets or Monomil XL 60mg tablets where appropriate.**

#### Background

Generic prescribing is recognised as a sign of good practice as well as generally being more cost effective. However there is a small number of medications where there are a substantial cost difference and numerous different brands ranging considerably in price.

Generic isosorbide mononitrate MR 60mg preparations (tablets and capsules) and brands such as Imdur MR 60mg are much more expensive than their branded generic equivalents Monomil XL 60mg tablets or Chemydur XL 60mg tablets. Both Chemydur and Monomil are scored and can be safely halved.

The table below shows the price variations:

Preparation	Price per 28 tablets (based on Sept Drug Tariff)
Generic Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg tablets	£10.50
Generic Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg capsules	£8.86
Chemydur XL 60mg tablets	£3.49
Monomil XL 60mg tablets	£3.49

In the 12 months to July 15 the spend in HRW CCG on Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg (branded and generic prescriptions) was over £23,000. The potential annual savings in HRW CCG from a 100% switch to low cost brands is over £15,000. Over 80% of prescribing in HRW CCG is as the generic tablets/capsules or Imdur so the majority of the savings (over £13k) will come from switching these patients.

#### Recommendations

**Practices are asked to review their prescribing of Isosorbide Mononitrate MR 60mg and switch to a low cost brand such as Chemydur XL 60mg or Monomil XL 60mg where appropriate.**

Other low costs brands are available and practices can choose alternative low cost brands providing they offer comparable value for money for the NHS. The prescribing support team are available to help practices implement this change and a protocol for the switch to Chemydur XL 60mg or Monomil XL 60mg, including a sample letter to patients, is available. To enable a simple switch process it is suggested that the practice choose their preferred branded generic.

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. As the timings of the switch will vary among practices it is advisable to notify local pharmacies in advance of the switch to enable effective management of stock.

The most up to date source of prescribing data is via [www.medicines.org.uk/emc](http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc)

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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