PQS 25/26 cost saving initiatives

Formulation prescribing review:

NHS Dorset is asking PCN teams to review the prescribed formulation of medicines, where multiple formulations exist. Some formulations of the same medicine offer no clinical advantage, at an increased cost. The potential savings achieved through formulation switching, can enable the NHS budget to be used to greater benefit the Dorset population. A table of suggested formulation switches can be found below.

As with all product switches, not all patients will be appropriate for switch, where patients are not eligible for product switch, this should be recorded in the patient record e.g. increasing table/capsule burden is not appropriate, patients requiring specific products due to visual impairment, licensing, contraindication, intolerance / allergy to excipients, dietary preference, religious grounds, swallowing issues etc.

\*Where it is recommended that a tablet formulation is halved, community pharmacy is not required to halve tablets on a patient's behalf. This would be required to be completed by the patient or carer. The patient's ability to half a tablet must be considered. Patients are able to purchase a pill cutter from their community pharmacy if needed.

\*\*Where patients are switched to more than one strength of a preparation to utilise the total dose, consider the impact of increased tablet/ capsule burden.

SystmOne searches have been developed for each product, to help PCN teams identify patients suitable for generic product switch:

**Dorset SystmOne GPs> PQS Finance 25 26> F10 drug formulation changes>**

Template patient letters and text messages have been developed to communicate the changes to patients, which can be found within SystmOne:

**Template text messages can be found within SystmOne>Msg presets> Medication Management>Formulation> specific template for each product listed**

**Template Letters can be found within SystmOne>Word letter templates>Dorset CCG> Medicines Management> Formulation> specific template for each product listed**

PQS 25/26 Formulation prescribing review options:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Drug name | Strength | Formulation | Suggested formulation change |
| Omeprazole | All strengths | Oral solution / suspension | Consider suitability for using a dispersible tablet please see guidance on [Dorset Formulary](https://www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=1&SubSectionRef=01.03.05&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=40#40)\* |
| Venlafaxine | 225mg | MR tablets/capsules | Prescribe total dose using a combination of 150mg MR and/or 75mg MR tablets as more cost effective. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Venlafaxine | 300mg | MR tablets |
| Venlafaxine | 150mg | MR capsules | Prescribe generic MR tablets |
| Generic Dorzolamide and Timolol & branded Cosopt | 20mg/ml/5mg/ml | preservative free unit dose eye drop (0.2ml or 0.166ml) preparations | Prescribe generic Dorzolamide and Timolol eye drops preservative free multidose eye drops (5ml bottle) |
| Latanoprost unit dose pf (Monoprost) eye drops | 50mcg/ml | unit dose preservative free eye drops | Prescribe preservative free eye drops 50mcg/ml (2.5ml) |
| Sertraline | 25mg | tablets | For 25mg doses, Prescribe Sertraline 50mg tablets and amend dosing instructions to take half a tablet\*, counsel patient. |
| Sertraline | 150mg | tablets | Prescribe total dose using a combination of 100mg and/or 50mg tablets as more cost effective. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Sertraline | 200mg | tablets |
| Metformin | 1g | tablets | Prescribe total dose using 500mg tablets as more cost effective. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Melatonin | 2mg,3mg and/or 5mg | Immediate release capsules | Prescribe Melatonin 2mg 3mg and/or 5mg immediate release **tablets** |
| Nebivolol | 1.25mg | tablets | For 1.25mg doses, prescribe Nebivolol 2.5mg tablets take half a tablet\*, Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Nebivolol | 10mg | tablets | Prescribe total dose using multiples of 5mg tablets. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Nebivolol | 2.5mg | tablets | For 2.5mg doses, prescribe Nebivolol 5mg tablets take half a tablet\*, Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Zolmitriptan | 2.5mg | tablets | Prescribe Zolmitriptan 2.5mg orodispersible tablets |
| Colecalciferol | 1000 unit | capsules | Prescribe colecalciferol 1000 units **tablets** |
| Colecalciferol | 800 unit | tablets | Prescribe colecalciferol 800 units **capsules** |
| Vitamin B | Compound strong and strong | tablets | Discontinue and do not initiate (red formulary drug) |
| Carbimazole | 10mg & 15mg | tablets | Prescribe total daily dose using to cost effective strengths (5mg & 20mg tablets). Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Rizatriptan | 10mg | oral lyophilisates sugar free tab | Prescribe Rizatriptan oral dispersible 10mg tab |
| Atorvastatin | 30mg & 60mg | tablets | Prescribe total dose using a combination of 20mg &/or 10mg tablets dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Duloxetine | 90mg & 120mg | capsules | Prescribe total dose using a combination of 30mg&/or 60mg capsules. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Paroxetine | 40mg | tablets | Prescribe total dose using a 20mg tablets. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Folic acid | 5mg/5ml | liquid | Prescribe Folic acid 2.5mg/5ml liquid. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Fluoxetine | 10mg | tablets | Prescribe Fluoxetine 10mg **capsules** |
| Doxazosin | 8mg | tablets | Prescribe total dose using 4mg tablets. Amend dosing instructions accordingly and counsel patient |
| Metformin | All strengths | Liquid | Consider using Metformin sachets where clinically appropriate |
| Ibuprofen | 10% | gel | Non formulary, purchase OTC or prescribe 5% gel |
| Movelat | All strengths | cream/gel | Non formulary, purchase OTC or consider topical NSAID |
| Adcal-D3 | Calcium carbonate 1.5g / colecalciferol 400 units | Chewable tablets | In patients **without known swallowing difficulties**, consider switching to Accrete D3 tablets which are swallowed whole. These contain equivalent amounts calcium carbonate 1.5g / colecalciferol 400 units. Patients will require counselling on the new swallow whole formulation. |

Formulation prescribing review options available to utilise from PQS 24/25:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Drug name | Strength | Formulation | Suggested formulation change |
| Esomeprazole | 20mg and 40mg | tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Estriol | 0.01% | Vaginal cream | Prescribe estriol 0.1% (1mg/g) vaginal cream |
| Liothyronine | 5mcg, 10mcg and 20mcg | tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Macrogol | 3550 | sachets | Prescribe macrogol sachets |
| Omeprazole | 10mg,20mg,40mg | tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Paracetamol | 500mg | capsules | Prescribe **tablets** |
| Prednisolone | All strengths | Soluble tablets and gastroresistant tablets | Prescribe prednisolone plain tablets    See [Dorset formulary](https://www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=10&SubSectionRef=10.01.02.01&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=4772#4772) for advice |
| Rosuvastatin | All strengths | capsules | Prescribe tablets |
| Tamsulosin | 400mcg | MR tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Trazodone | All strengths | tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Ursodeoxycholic | 250mg | tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Cetirizine | 10mg | capsules | Prescribe **tablets** |
| Co-codamol | All strengths | capsules | Prescribe **tablets** |
| Venlafaxine | 225mg | MR tablets | Prescribe **capsules** |
| Mesalazine (Asacol) | All strengths | MR tablets | change to Octasa |
| Gaviscon advanced | -- | Oral suspension | Prescribe Acidex advanced or Peptac liquid (note dose change needed if switching to Peptac) |
| Gaviscon liquid | -- | Oral suspension | Prescribe Peptac liquid |