

To: GPs and Community Pharmacists

Ref: **Generic Clopidogrel**

Dear Colleague,

PLEASE BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL PRESCRIBERS

Generic clopidogrel, in the form a number of different clopidogrel salts, is now available. **All of the clopidogrel salts are bioequivalent and are licensed throughout Europe, including the UK, for all the same indications as the branded product, Plavix.**

The two licensed indications for clopidogrel are:

- (i) As monotherapy, for the prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients following a myocardial infarction or ischaemic stroke or for patients with established peripheral arterial disease
- (ii) In combination with aspirin, for patients following an acute coronary syndrome (ACS)

Although all the clopidogrel salts are licensed for both these indications, there are some restrictions on the marketing of the generic agents for the Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) indication in the UK. As a result, some manufacturers have chosen not to list this as an indication in the Summary of Product Characteristics and / or the patient information leaflet.

The Surrey Heart & Stroke Network have considered the use of generic clopidogrel within Surrey and have made the following recommendations:

- (i) Prescribe the agent generically (clopidogrel 75mg tablets) for all indications
- (ii) For patients following an acute coronary syndrome the usual duration of clopidogrel therapy is 12 months, after which time the drug should be stopped. Aspirin should be prescribed throughout the course and should be continued long-term.

The Surrey Area Prescribing Committee (APC) also support the Surrey Stroke & Cardiac Network stance on the use of generic clopidogrel and agree with generic clopidogrel being prescribed / dispensed in combination with aspirin in ACS even though it doesn't have marketing authorisation.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Solomons
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