



Surrey

Surrey Primary Care Trust

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To: All prescribers in NHS Surrey

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Dear Colleague

Re: Generic Latanoprost eye drops

Following previous correspondence sent to you at the beginning of this year in relation to the patent expiry of Xalatan® in January I would like to update you on work that has been carried out with our secondary care colleagues. This work is intended to support you in maximising the benefits from the introduction of generic latanoprost.

The Surrey Area Prescribing Committee recommends that generic latanoprost is the first line prostaglandin analogue within Surrey and this recommendation is reflected within all the formularies of our local Acute Trusts. If you receive a request to prescribe an alternative prostaglandin analogue from an Acute Trust for a new patient your practice support pharmacist can support you in addressing this by liaising with the Acute Trust concerned (please note tafluprost is a preservative free prostaglandin analogue and should be offered to people with an allergy to benzalkonium chloride).

In relation to patients already on alternative prostaglandin analogues after consultation with our secondary care colleagues we are not recommending a switch in primary care as there would be no means to appropriately monitor these patients.

If you have a high number of patients on alternative prostaglandin analogues (excluding preservative free tafluprost) who have not previously been on latanoprost you might want to highlight these patients to the secondary care consultant for consideration of a review when they are next followed up.

If you have any further queries in relation to this please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely

Linda Honey
Head of Pharmaceutical Commissioning
NHS Surrey