



Partners in improving local health

Medicines Optimisation Update

Oxycodone



Clinical Commissioning Group

What this includes:

Oxycodone modified-release (MR) cost per 1000 patients: Using the most cost effective opioid. Morphine is first line; if this is not tolerated then a clinically appropriate branded oxycodone (Longtec®) should be considered.

Identifying the problem:

- Useful app that can be downloaded and use by patients: <http://www.paintoolkit.org/>
- Useful audit tool: <https://www.prescqipp.info/oxycodone-mr/category/61-oxycodone-mr>

Suggested actions:

Patients currently being prescribed oxycodone MR

- Review the continued need for oxycodone and consider decreasing/ stepping down prescribed doses if appropriate.
- Review patients for suitability for switching to morphine sulphate MR. (Zomorph®). Prescribers should be aware of the difference in potency of oxycodone compared with morphine (morphine dose is one and a half to two times the oxycodone dose). A dose conversion chart is available on the 'Just in Case' medication authorisation sheet used in palliative care.
- Patients unsuitable for a switch to morphine sulphate should be switched to an equivalent dose of Longtec® branded oxycodone MR which has a lower acquisition cost compared to Oxycontin®.

Patients newly identified as requiring strong opiates

- Commence new patients requiring a strong opioid on morphine sulphate, following WHO (World Health Organisation) pain ladder before commencing strong opiates. Oral morphine is the strong opioid of choice for cancer pain and is recommended by National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) as first-line treatment when starting a strong opioid.
- Oxycodone can be considered as an option in patients who are intolerant of morphine i.e. develop unacceptable side-effects with morphine even when adjunct treatment is added to reduce these side-effects.
- Consider the use of a pain assessment tool for a baseline assessment of pain (and for re-assessing), details can be found in the resources. A patient –held Pain Management Plan should be agreed using shared decision making.
- Prescribers should be aware of the abuse potential of all opioids and careful consideration should be given when prescribing opioids for non-cancer pain to patients with a history of substance misuse or where abuse is a concern.

For safety reasons, Cumbria Area Prescribing Committee have approved Longtec® as the brand of choice for oxycodone MR.

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Costs and savings

28 day cost of oxycodone modified-release(MR) compared to 1.5x (30mg) and 2x (40mg) conversion to morphine sulphate modified-release.

Oxycodone MR tablets (Oxycontin®) tablets 20mg twice daily)	£50.08
Longtec® tablets 20mg twice daily	£25.04
Morphine sulphate MR capsules (Zomorph®) 30mg twice daily	£7.75
Morphine sulphate MR capsules (Zomorph®) 40mg twice daily (30mg +10mg)	£10.99

Switching to morphine sulphate at an equivalent dose could save over £390,000 in Cumbria CCG.

Switching to Longtec® at an equivalent dose could save over £230,000 in Cumbria CCG.

Resources:

- Pain assessment tools:
https://www.britishpainsociety.org/static/uploads/resources/files/pain_scales_eng.pdf
- British Pain Inventory
http://www.npcrc.org/files/news/briefpain_short.pdf
- The British Pain Society. Opioids for chronic pain: good practice. Shortened Version. (January 2010).
http://www.britishpainsociety.org/book_opioid_main.pdf
MHRA Opioids learning module www.mhra.gov.uk/opioids-learning-module/index.htm

References:

- Prescipp bulletin: <https://www.prescipp.info/oxycodone-mr/send/61-oxycodone-mr/864-bulletin-52-oxycodone-mr>
- Palliative care for adults: strong opioids for pain relief
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG140>
- SIGN 136: Management of Chronic Pain <http://sign.ac.uk/pdf/qrg136.pdf>
- Drug Tariff - Basic Prices of Drugs
<http://www.drugtariff.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/#/00330394-DD/DD00330393/PartVIII>
- British National Formulary <https://www.bnf.org/>
- NPSA: Reducing Dosing Errors with Opioid Medicines
<http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/>
- Just in Case Medication Authorisation Sheet :
<http://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/download/just-in-case-jic-medication-authorisation-sheet/>