

To: All Doctors & Ward/Team Managers
CC: Pharmacists & Nursing Staff

September 2015

Notification regarding the impact that a change in smoking habit can have on prescribed medicines and the subsequent need for medication review

Concerns were raised at the SSSFT Medicines Optimisation Committee (MOC) held on Friday the 25th of September regarding the impact that a change in smoking habit can have on the doses of some medicines, primarily due to changes in hepatic metabolising capacity. Medicines commonly used within SSSFT that are affected by a change in smoking habit include clozapine, olanzapine, chlorpromazine, methadone, warfarin and insulin. Patients who are prescribed these medicines will need to be clinically reviewed when a change in their smoking habit takes place. To support clinicians in this review process detailed guidance has been developed and approved by the MOC titled: **'Smoking and its Effects on Psychotropic Medication including Clozapine and Olanzapine: a practical guide to reviewing prescriptions following a change in smoking habit'** [enclosed]. Please take the time to read this guidance as failure to adequately adjust a patients' dose of clozapine following a change in smoking habit can result in serious harm to the patient in the form of significant clozapine toxicity (following smoking cessation) or relapse of mental health (following the resumption of smoking). This clinical risk is being added to the SSSFT risk register and will be regularly reviewed by the MOC. The clinical pharmacist team are available to advise and support with this review process, your ward or team pharmacist should be your first point of contact, if they are not available please contact your respective pharmacy department at St Georges Hospital or the Redwoods Centre.

Patient information leaflets can be accessed via the SSSFT Choice & Medication website:
<http://www.choiceandmedication.org/south-staffs/pages/printableleaflets/>

Patient information leaflets are available on the following topics:

- Clozapine
- Smoking and Clozapine [enclosed]
- Clozapine Blood Levels [enclosed]
- Olanzapine
- Smoking and Olanzapine [enclosed]

On-line training for healthcare professionals can be accessed via the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCCT) website: <http://elearning.ncsct.co.uk/england>

Training modules include:

- Stop Smoking Practitioner Training and Certification
- Mental Health and Smoking Cessation
- Pregnancy and Smoking Cessation
- Stop Smoking Medications

Kind Regards



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