

POSITION STATEMENT – SIP FEEDS PRESCRIBING GUIDANCE ADDENDUM (CHOICE OF SIP FEED)

Ensure Plus® and Ensure Compact® to be first choice of sip feed (where sip feed indicated)

Introduction

The prescribing spend on sip feeds nationally has increased steadily over recent years and studies undertaken recently have indicated that much of the prescribing of sip feeds is inappropriate. As a result many CCGs, including Blackpool, have focussed on reducing the sip feeds spend and, though the methods have been different, the general aim of work has been to reduce inappropriate prescribing and to review patients prescribed sip feeds more regularly and with more expertise.

Background

BCCG already provides guidance on the prescribing of sip feeds in general practice (see BCCG Sip Feeds Prescribing Guidance, November 2013). However, this policy document does not include guidance as to the first choice of sip feed. A recent price reduction for two specific brands – Ensure Plus® and Ensure Compact® - by approximately 30% has presented the opportunity to realise cost savings in this area.

For the period April'14 to June'15 BCCG spent a total £318K (25k items) and £29k (302 items) on Ensure Plus® and Ensure Compact®, respectively.

By adopting Ensure Plus® and Ensure Compact® as the CCG preferred first choice sip feeds, the 30% price reduction offers a potential total saving of £50k pa (pro-rata).

Implementation

- Practices to review their sip feeding prescribing
- If clinically appropriate change patients from other brands to the preferred cost-effective choice

N.B. Existing prescription recommendations from a specialist dietician, such as renal, should not be substituted

- To maximise their effectiveness and avoid spoiling appetite, patients should be advised to take sip feeds between or after meals and not before meals or as a meal replacement
- To be clinically effective it is recommended that sip feeds are prescribed twice daily. This ensures that calorie and protein intake is sufficient to achieve weight gain
- A one week prescription or starter pack should always be prescribed initially to avoid wastage in case products are not well tolerated
- Starter packs of powdered sip feeds that need reconstitution should be avoided unless required as an initial trial, as they often contain a shaker device, which makes them more costly
- Avoid adding sip feeds prescriptions to repeats unless a short review date is also included to enable review against nutritional goals

October 2015

For review: October 2017

