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The Leeds
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Ref:RepatCPWY
11th August 2021

Briefing - Change in Immunosuppressant Medication Supply Mechanism for Kidney Transplant Patients at Leeds Teaching Hospitals

Dear colleague,

I'd like to tell you about a new service that may affect some of your patients, and what this means for you as a partner in their care.

Key messages

- Leeds Teaching Hospitals (LTH) will soon begin to “repatriate” adult kidney transplant recipients. This means that the responsibility for prescribing and supply of post-kidney transplant immunosuppressants to adult patients will be undertaken by the Pharmacy team at St James’s Hospital.
- This service is being implemented for patients currently under the care of LTH, so some renal transplant patients in the region will still need to receive immunosuppressants from their dispensing Pharmacy.
- This service does not include children, or patients receiving the immunosuppressants listed for other indications.
- Other medications will continue to be prescribed by the GP on FP10
- LTH will contact the patient’s current dispensing pharmacy in advance of repatriation to discuss the process and ensure that existing stock can be utilised.
- Do not make any change to your processes with kidney transplant patients until you have been contacted by LTH to confirm that the prescription and supply of immunosuppression is transferring to LTH.
- Pharmacies with queries can contact 0113 2060964. Patients with queries should contact the renal pharmacy team using this phone number, or email on leedsth-tr.mmpskidneytransplant@nhs.net with their question, and include their name, date of birth and NHS number (if known). NB this email is for patients only
- Be aware that the immunosuppressant drugs supplied through the new process (as with other hospital supplied medication) may not appear on the patient’s Summary Care Record

Leeds Teaching Hospitals will soon begin to “repatriate” kidney transplant recipients to bring our practice in line with the expected service delivery specified by NHSE a number of years ago. This means that, in time, the responsibility for prescribing and supply of post-kidney transplant immunosuppressants (tacrolimus, sirolimus, ciclosporin, azathioprine, mycophenolate, mycophenolic acid and prednisolone) for patients under the care of LTH will be undertaken by the Pharmacy team at St James’s Hospital. A homecare company called PolarSpeed will dispense and deliver these medicines. All other medicines for the patient will continue to be prescribed by the GP on an FP10.

We’ve been doing lots of work to get to this point, such as liaising with stakeholders that are currently involved in the care of this patient group, including Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire and patients themselves, to make sure we consider the impact of this work.

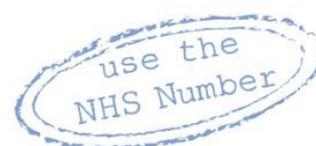
We want to let you know about this, and what we’ve done so far, to make sure transition to the new service is seamless for our patients and causes minimal disruption to everyone involved in their care.

A letter and FAQ document will be sent to each patient and their GP as part of this process, the template of which will be available on the CPWY website [here](#) for your information. GP’s are being requested to keep a record of these medications on their prescribing system to support safe patient care in primary care but unfortunately, as is the case for other “red” (or “hospital only”) drugs, we cannot guarantee this. We will also contact the named Community Pharmacy for each patient in advance of their repatriation to discuss the process and ensure that existing stock can be utilised.

Chair Linda Pollard CBE DL Hon.DLL Chief Executive Julian Hartley

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals incorporating:

Chapel Allerton Hospital Leeds Dental Institute Seacroft Hospital Leeds Children’s Hospital
St James’s University Hospital Leeds General Infirmary Wharfedale Hospital Leeds Cancer Centre



Please do not make any change to your processes with kidney transplant patients until you have been contacted and we confirm that the prescription and supply of immunosuppression is transferring to LTH.

Each patient has a dedicated patient care advisor at PolarSpeed who they can contact with any queries or concerns, and our systems are designed to pre-empt the need for ongoing supplies so patients do not run out of their medication. If patients do run out of medication or need urgent resupply, we have systems in place at LTH to support emergency provision of these medicines, which can be accessed by using the contact details they have been provided with.

We have a dedicated phone line and email address for patients to contact us; if you are asked for any support in relation to a patient's immunosuppressants for their kidney transplant, do not hesitate to signpost them to us or PolarSpeed with the details they have been given. If you need to contact us, our details can be found on the template letter that has been made available within the CPWY website.

Finally, we would like to thank you for the care and support you have given to these patients, for decades in some cases, and the care you will continue to provide alongside our new service.

Charles Walker
Clinical Pharmacy Team Leader

On behalf of the Renal Clinical Pharmacy Team