

Hertfordshire and West Essex Area Prescribing Committee

Summary Clarification on Primary Care Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWHs)

New Patients: LMWHs are not recommended for primary care prescribing. Prescribing responsibility to be retained in secondary care.

There may be exceptional clinical circumstances where a short term urgent treatment with LMWH is required by a patient. This could be prescribed by the GP (who has the relevant clinical expertise) on advice of the specialist while the patient is awaiting a specialist review.

Existing Patients: LMWHs may continue to be prescribed in primary care under existing arrangements with appropriate ongoing review and monitoring.

Background information

- There have been previous safety alerts for LMWHs (highlighting risk areas around product choice, dose, monitoring and duration), and some use e.g. in pregnancy is off label.
- The majority of use of LMWHs is for indications for short term use where prescribing responsibility is to be retained by secondary care.
- For indications where longer term use is required, local commissioners and providers have been in discussion about the approach to support appropriate and safe prescribing arrangements.
- LMWH for all indications will remain as traffic light status 'red' (not recommended for primary care prescribing - prescribing responsibility to be retained in secondary care). Where ongoing prescribing is indicated, there is a need to agree ongoing prescribing / monitoring arrangements and appropriateness of shared care. This will be taken to a future Hertfordshire and West Essex Area Prescribing Committee meeting.
- The legacy West Essex CCG recommendations for LMWH prescribing (which applies to The Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow) are that they are not recommended for primary care prescribing either.

Version	2.0 Harmonisation of Hertfordshire Medicines Management Committee (HMMC) guidance and West Essex Medicines Optimisation Programme Board (WEMOPB) guidance updates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebadging with HWE ICB and removal of ENHCCG and HVCCG headers • Review date removed and replaced with standard statement. • Removal of ongoing work with oncology as this work is paused • Removal of link to Indications and Clinical Responsibilities document
Developed by	Hertfordshire Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Team
Approved by	HMMC and WEMOPB
Date approved/updated	HMMC December 2019, updated July 2020 WEMOPB
Review date:	The recommendation is based upon the evidence available at the time of publication. This recommendation will be reviewed upon request in the light of new evidence becoming available.
Superseded version	1.0