

Dear pharmacist,

Your patient has been commenced on a systemic anti cancer therapy for the treatment of Prostate Cancer called Abiraterone. **This is a hormone treatment, not a cytotoxic and therefore requires no safe handling procedures.**

Abiraterone (Zytiga) is supplied as 500mg tablets and is taken along with Prednisolone on a continuous basis. Patients will be reviewed every 4, 8 or 12 weeks by the uro-oncology team at Forth Valley Royal Infirmary.

Treatment with Abiraterone will be ongoing whilst there is continuing clinical benefit from therapy and the patient tolerates the drug.

The recommended starting dose is Abiraterone 1000mgs once daily along with Prednisolone 5mg twice daily. The initial supply of Abiraterone will be made by the FVRH pharmacy. Patients will be closely monitored by the uro-oncology team and all further prescriptions will be issued by the FVRH uro-oncology clinic and be dispensed by yourselves at 4 weekly intervals. Dose amendments are rare however we will inform you by email of any dose amendments or if the patient is to stop treatment.

The following are common side effects of Abiraterone to be aware are - hypertension, hepatotoxicity and fatigue. Further information on Abiraterone can be found at <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/32865>

Abiraterone is a strong CYP iso-enzyme inhibitor and has the potential for a number of drug interactions. The oncology pharmacists will have checked ECS at the start of treatment and assessed the potential for interactions with existing medicines. If any new medicines are started please check for interactions and contact the oncology pharmacists on the number below if you require advice.

If your patient experiences side effects or you require any further clinical information please do not hesitate to contact the oncology pharmacists on 01324 566308.

Please direct any supply issues to the Community Pharmacy Development Team email adress FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net

Yours sincerely

Joanne Robinson
Senior Pharmacist - Oncology