

Esmya® (ulipristal acetate 5mg tablets) Patient Card

As you may be aware, rare but serious cases of liver injury, including cases of hepatic failure requiring liver transplantation, have been reported worldwide in women treated with Esmya® for the symptoms of uterine fibroids. As a result there is restricted indication for prescribing Esmya®, it is contra-indicated in women with underlying liver disorders.

Patients prescribed Esmya® will need to have liver function tests before, during and after treatment courses. The manufacturers have produced an Esmya® patient card which explains the need for blood tests, lists the signs and symptoms of liver problems and has a table where patients can record the dates of their liver function tests. **Pharmacies should supply the Esmya® patient card with every pack dispensed.** This card can be downloaded by accessing the following link: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/rmm/1253/Document>

Pharmacists should also counsel women taking Esmya® on the need to seek urgent medical attention if they develop any signs or symptoms of liver injury (such as unusual tiredness, yellowing of the skin, darkening of the urine, nausea and vomiting). Any suspected adverse drug reactions to Esmya® should be reported on a Yellow Card without delay.

Please note: The emergency contraceptive ellaOne® also contains ulipristal acetate in a single dose of 30mg. No cases of serious liver injury have been reported with ellaOne® since it was authorised in the EU in 2009 and there are no concerns or changes to its use at this time.

[For further information please refer the MHRA Drug Safety Update](#)

Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD)

The Department of Health have stated that the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD) will be implemented on 9th February 2019 and have advised community pharmacies to proceed with whatever is required to meet this date. Community Pharmacy Scotland has a [dedicated area on their website for FMD](#) including training videos and frequently asked questions. The community pharmacy development team would advise community pharmacy staff to visit this website to familiarise themselves with the changes that the implementation of FMD will bring.

A further source of authoritative and reliable information for community pharmacies on how to implement FMD is FMD Source – available at: <https://fmdsource.co.uk/>

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Please Circulate to All Staff

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Diary Dates — Future Training Events

Hosted By	Name of Event	Date	Venue	Time	PLT	For Information or to Register:
RPS	Pharmacy Sector Integration — Making it happen	Wednesday 20th February 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	rphar.ms/ForthValley20Feb
NES	Improving the identification and management of sepsis	Thursday 28th February 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk
NES	Supporting people with trauma	Wednesday 20th March 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk
NES	NSAIDs Safer Care Bundle	Thursday 23rd May 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk

GP Practice Signposting Programme

GP practices across Forth Valley are currently involved in a signposting programme which focuses on directing patients to the right health professional, at the right time. GP reception staff will ask the patients some questions about their symptoms and why they are requesting an appointment with their GP and for certain symptoms and conditions the patient may be asked to visit their community pharmacy before consulting their GP, bypassing their GP surgery altogether. Patients may also be directed to advanced nurse practitioners, mental health nurses, dentists, opticians, ALFY and the musculoskeletal helpline.

Over the next few months, local practices may look to their pharmacists to help develop training resources for the admin staff. We would welcome any ideas, thoughts or concerns on building improvements into practice signposting. We recently held a very successful 'Meet the Experts' session with the Clackmannanshire cluster, which allowed reception staff to ask common questions or raise examples of difficult situations with one of the local pharmacists. The event has had great feedback from all of the front-line receptionists and we hope to roll out wider across the region.

If a patient is referred to community pharmacy by their GP surgery and in the pharmacist's opinion they need to be seen by their GP, please refer the patient back to their GP by completing an SBAR form.

Community Pharmacy Services

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For Specials authorisation:

Telephone: 01324 567937

Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Telephone: FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net

Advice Related to Controlled Drugs:

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