

Linezolid Prescribing in Primary Care

Please note if linezolid is indicated, a consultant microbiologist will contact the GP to ensure it is the correct drug to use and will advise on dosing and monitoring. If any queries arise after initiation or if you would like further advice, please contact one of the microbiologists listed below through the hospital switch board on 01473 712233

Dr Gillian Unwin - 5741
Dr Robert SueHo - 5485
Dr Beverley Palmer - 5745

Background

Linezolid is an oxazolidinone antibacterial which is only active against gram-positive bacteria including MRSA and glycopeptide-resistant enterococci. While it does not appear in the Suffolk Primary care Antibiotic Formulary, it may be recommended by microbiology through sensitivities when other antimicrobials are resistant or not suitable. Linezolid is not routinely stocked in pharmacies due to its cost and minimal usage. This fact sheet will provide primary care clinicians with the necessary information about prescribing linezolid, monitoring and how patients will be able to obtain it.

Indications

Usual indications include

- nosocomial pneumonia
- community acquired pneumonia
- complicated skin and soft tissue infections

Linezolid will only be started within primary care based on sensitivity results from microbiology.

Prescribers will need to check to ensure cultures are not sensitive to other antibiotics that is more readily available in primary care

Dosage

600 mg twice daily

Microbiology will advise on the most appropriate course length however treatment must not exceed 28 days.

Contraindications

If a patient required linezolid, a consultant microbiologist will discuss the case with the prescriber and ensure that the drug is suitable for the patient before making a prescribing

recommendation. If the patient is not suitable for linezolid the consultant microbiologist will be able to advise on other possible alternatives.

The following are contraindications to using linezolid

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypersensitivity to linezolid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schizophrenia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors or have done within two weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute confusional state
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncontrolled hypertension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients taking SSRIs, TCAs, triptans, direct and indirect sympathomimetic agents vasopressive agents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phaeochromocytoma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dopaminergic agents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carcinoid tumour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buspirone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thyrotoxicosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipolar depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfeeding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pethidine 	

Due to its MOAI like activity, patients taking linezolid should avoid consuming large amounts of tyramine-rich foods (such as mature cheese, salami, pickled herring, Bovril®, Oxo®, Marmite® or any similar meat or yeast extract or fermented soya bean extract, and some beers, lagers or wines).

Monitoring

Complete blood counts should be monitored weekly in patients receiving linezolid

Myelosuppression (including anaemia, leucopenia, pancytopenia and thrombocytopenia) has a higher chance of occurring in elderly patients

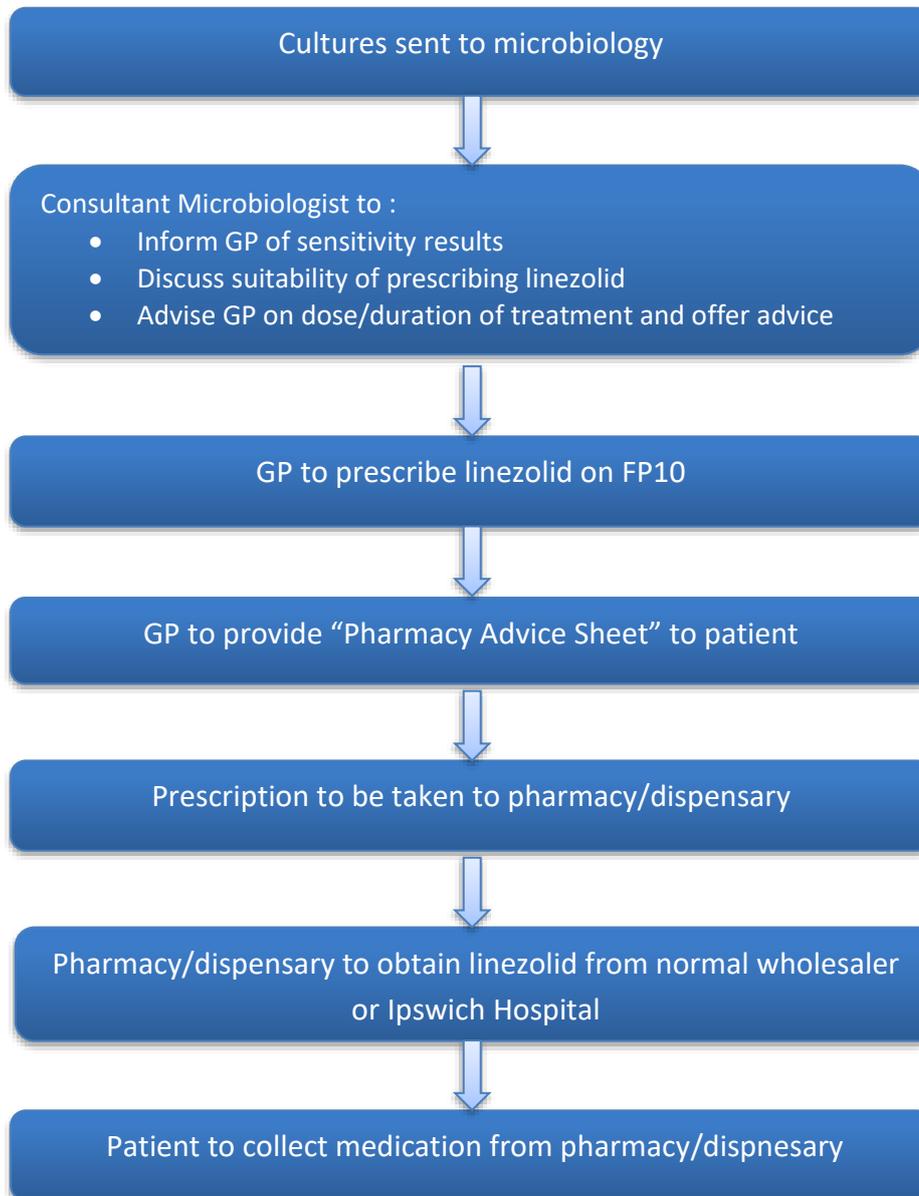
If significant myelosuppression occurs please contact the consultant microbiologist.

All patients should be advised to report symptoms of visual impairment, such as changes in visual acuity, changes in colour vision, blurred vision, or visual field defect. In such cases, prompt evaluation is recommended with referral to an ophthalmologist as necessary.

Pharmacy/dispensary

An advice sheet can be printed off which can be given to the patient to advise the pharmacy on how to obtain the drug if they are unable to order it in through their normal wholesalers and what counselling should be provided to patients such as recognising signs of myelosuppression, optic neuropathy and MAIO interactions.

How to obtain linezolid in primary care



References

SPC Zyvox 600mg Film-Coated Tablets Pharmacia Limited Last Updated on eMC 02/08/2016
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1688> [Accessed 20/02/2018]

BNF Online Linezolid https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnf/current/PHP3551-linezolid.htm?q=linezolid&t=search&ss=text&tot=17&p=1#_hit [Accessed 20/02/2018]