1 Reason for the review

Amlodipine is the most cost-effective dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker (CCB) in its class which includes felodipine, isradipine*, nifedipine, lacidipine*, lercanidipine* and nicardipine. Amlodipine, felodipine, nifedipine and nicardipine do not reduce myocardial contractility and they do not produce clinical deterioration in heart failure. Their indications are hypertension and prophylaxis of angina (hypertension only*). Felodipine (Cardioplén®/Plendil®) is the most commonly used CCB and has long-acting effects on blood pressure comparable to amlodipine with a similar side-effect profile. The annual cost savings to be accrued per patient from the switch to amlodipine (compared to Cardioplén®) is £37/£47.

2 Inclusion Criteria

Search for all patients prescribed the following on repeat prescription within the last 6 months:
- Felodipine 5mg/10mg
- Cardioplén® 5mg/10mg
- Plendil® 5mg/10mg

Dose equivalence with amlodipine has been established through a number of clinical trials.

3 Exclusion Criteria

- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Unstable angina
- Previous intolerance of amlodipine
- Previous switch to an alternative product which caused distress
- Mental health issues likely to have an effect on ability to accept change of medication
- Patients with terminal cancer
- Other as defined by GP

GP will be notified regarding any compliance issues.

4 Preparation and planning

Implementation of audit in selected GP practices Prescribing Support Team is as follows:
- Protocol to be discussed with all GPs in the practice to ensure that agreement to proceed is reached
- Computer search of all patients according to the inclusion criteria
- Review of patients medical notes and repeat prescribing records to check for exclusion criteria
- List of eligible patients to be checked by GP/GPs for any further alterations.
- Letter to be sent to eligible patients and switch to be undertaken on the computer system
- A BP review date to be set at 4 weeks post switch

5 Action

Letters written to all patients outlining the reasons for the switch to ensure they are fully informed and given an opportunity to discuss the switch with either their GP or practice pharmacist

Admin staff in practices to be made aware of change of repeat medication

Local pharmacies to be informed of need to reduce stock and of counselling for patients (copy of patient letter supplied)

Report for practices will include number of switches made by the pharmacist/technician and projected cost savings as a result of the recommendations

Review to be undertaken by: ........................................GP Authorisation: .......................... Date: .......................
Dear Mr/Mrs __________

As part of a review of prescribing, NHS Dumfries and Galloway is currently reviewing all patients prescribed the blood pressure lowering medicine felodipine (sometimes known as Cardioplen® or Plendil®).

The next time you request felodipine tablets you will notice we have changed your prescription to amlopidine tablets. The strength, how often and when you take the new tablet will remain the same and the advice on avoidance of grapefruit juice is also exactly the same.

This change has been made to help doctors to continue to use high quality treatments while making the most effective use of available resources.

We propose to introduce the change with your next prescription. Please finish your tablets as normal and then start the new tablets as directed on the same day every week as before.

Should have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Surgery on the number above or, alternatively, you can contact a member of the Prescribing Support Team on ..........

Yours sincerely,

Name

Prescribing Support Technician
On behalf of the Doctors
# Switch from Calcium Channel Blocker Felodipine 5/10mg - Data Collection Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURGERY: .................................................</th>
<th>DATE: ...............</th>
<th>UNDERTAKEN BY: ...............................................................</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients name/DOB</td>
<td>Felodipine brand and dose G: generic C: cardioplen P: plendil</td>
<td>Indication Hypertension/ Angina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>