BNF CHAPTER 7: OBSTETRICS, GYNAECOLOGY, & URINARY-TRACT DISORDERS

7.1 DRUGS USED IN OBSTETRICS

7.1.1 PROSTAGLANDINS AND OXYTOCINS

- Carboprost 250 micrograms/1mL injection
- Dinoprostone 3mg tablet
  (Prostin E2) 1mg/2.5mL vaginal gel
  2mg/2.5mL vaginal gel
- Ergometrine 500 micrograms/mL injection
- Ergometrine/oxytocin 500 micrograms/5 units/mL injection
  (Syntometrine)
- Gemeprost 1mg pessaries
- Oxytocin 10 units (10,000 milliunits/mL injection)

See Induction of Labour guidelines on Trove for details of doses and administration.

7.1.2 MIFEPRISTONE

- Mifepristone 200mg tablets
  See unit guidelines for indications and doses.
  Often given in conjunction with misoprostol (see unit guidelines)
- Misoprostol 200microgram tablets
7.1.3 MYOMETRIAL RELAXANTS

- **Atosiban**  
  6.75mg in 0.6mL injection  
  7.5mg/mL (5mL) concentrate for intravenous infusion

- **Indomethacin**  
  100mg suppository (unlicensed use)  
  75mg m/r tablets (unlicensed use)

See PRETERM LABOUR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES on Trove for dose and administration details

- **Terbutaline**  
  500 micrograms/1mL injection

**Indication**: Uterine hypercontractility due to induction agents – *unlicensed use*

See Management of Hyperstimulation on Trove for guidelines on administration and dose

**Methotrexate for ectopic pregnancy (single dose regimen)**

Please note this is an unlicensed use of methotrexate.

Methotrexate injections are prepared by the Pharmacy Department and doses will be supplied within office hours Monday to Friday only.

See unit policy for dose and administration guidelines

**Cholestasis in Pregnancy**

- Oral vitamin K from 32 weeks until delivery – Phytomenadione 10mg od

- If pruritus present try (in order)
  - emollients (Cetraben)
  - antihistamine – chlorphenamine
  - ursodeoxycholic acid (400mg bd)
  - dexamethasone 12mg od po (on advice of Consultant Obstetrician only)
7.2 TREATMENT OF VAGINAL AND VULVAL CONDITIONS

7.2.1 PREPARATIONS FOR VAGINAL AND VULVAL CHANGES

Refer also to HRT section 6.4.1

Topical HRT for vaginal atrophy

Vaginal oestrogen preparations are effective in the short-term treatment of urogenital symptoms. Systemic absorption can be significant and if these are to be used for more than a few weeks by a woman with an intact uterus, a progesterone should be added to treatment.

- **Estriol 0.01% cream** Ortho-Gynest® with applicator
- **Estriol 500 microgram pessaries** Ortho-Gynest®
- **Estrol 0.1% vaginal cream** Ovestin®
- **Estradiol 25 microgram vaginal tablets** Vagifem®

7.2.2 VAGINAL AND VULVAL INFECTIONS

Fungal infections

- **Clotrimazole** Topical cream 1%
  Vaginal cream 10%
  Vaginal tablet 500mg

Other infections

- **Metronidazole** 0.75% vaginal gel with applicators

N.B. Must be prescribed as **vaginal gel** on prescriptions to ensure that the correct preparation is supplied.

Also see local Management of infection guidelines.
7.3 CONTRACEPTIVES

7.3.1 COMBINED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES

Prescribe by brand to promote patient familiarity and compliance. Products in bold type are those currently used by the CASH service.

The efficacy of COCs containing 20 and 30 micrograms ethinylestradiol is similar; however unscheduled bleeding may be more likely with COCs containing 20 micrograms of ethinylestradiol.

Low Strength (oral)

- **Ethinylestradiol & desogestrel**
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 20 micrograms, desogestrel 150 micrograms (**Gedarel 20/150®** £5.98 x 63, **Mercilon®** £7.67 x 63)

Standard Strength (oral)

- **Ethinylestradiol & desogestrel**
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 30 micrograms, desogestrel 150 micrograms (**Gedarel 30/150®** £4.93 x 63, **Marvelon®** £6.45 x 63, **Cimizt®** £3.80 x 63)

- **Ethinylestradiol & gestodene**
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 30 micrograms, gestodene 75 micrograms (**Millinette 30/75®** £4.85 x 63, **Katya® 30/75** £5.03 x 63, **Femodene®** £6.73 x 63)

- **Ethinylestradiol & levonorgestrel**
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 30 micrograms, levonorgestrel 150 micrograms (**Levest®** £2.64 x 63, **Microgynon®** £2.82 x 63, **Microgynon 30 ED** £2.99 x 84, **Ovranette®** £2.20 x 63, **Rigevidon®** £1.89 x 63)

- **Ethinylestradiol & norethisterone**
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 35 micrograms, norethisterone 500 micrograms (**Brevinor®** £1.99 x 63, **Ovysmen®** £1.89 x 63)
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 30 micrograms, norethisterone 1.5mg (**Loestrin 30®** £3.90 x 63)

- **Ethinylestradiol & norgestimate**
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 35 micrograms, norgestimate 250 micrograms (**Cilest®** £7.16 x 63, **Lizinna®** £5.37 x 63)

- **Estradiol & nomegestrol**
  Tablets estradiol 1.5mg, nomegestrol 2.5mg (**Zoely®** £16.50 x 84). For 3rd line use.
- Estradiol valerate & dienogest
  Tablets estradiol valerate 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, dienogest 2mg, 3mg (Qlaira® £25.18 x 84). RAG status is Black for hormonal contraception, but Green for heavy menstrual bleeding.

- Ethinylestradiol & drospirenone
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 30 micrograms, drospirenone 3 mg (Yasmin® £14.70 x 63). RAG status is Black for new patients, but Green for existing patients.

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The MHRA issued safety advice on Yasmin® advising the risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) for drospirenone-containing combined oral contraceptives (COCs), including Yasmin®, is higher than for levonorgestrel-containing COCs (so-called ‘second generation’ pills) and may be similar to the risk for COCs that contain desogestrel or gestodene (so-called ‘third generation’ pills). The risk of VTE with Yasmin® remains very small and, like other oral contraceptives, is less than that associated with pregnancy. **N.B.** Yasmin® is one of the most expensive COCs currently available.

🔗 [Yasmin: risk of venous thromboembolism higher than levonorgestrel-containing pills](#)

**Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Drug Safety Update**

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**Biphasic / Triphasic preparations**

Biphasic and triphasic preparations are rarely prescribed but may be of benefit in patients unable to tolerate monophasic preparations.

Prescribe by brand to promote patient familiarity and compliance.

- Ethinylestradiol & levonorgestrel
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 30 micrograms, 40 micrograms, 30 micrograms + levonorgestrel 50 micrograms, 75 micrograms, 125 micrograms (TriRegol® £2.87 x 63, Logynon® £3.82 x 63, Logynon® ED £4.00 x 84)

- Ethinylestradiol & norethisterone
  Tablets ethinylestradiol 35 micrograms + norethisterone 500 micrograms, 750 micrograms, 1mg (Trinovum® £3.46 x 63)
Transdermal (standard strength)

- **Ethinylestradiol & norelgestromin**
  Patches releasing ethinylestradiol approx. 33.9 micrograms/24hr and norelgestromin approx. 203 micrograms/24hr (Evra® £19.51 x 9)

Patches may be of value in women who are poor compliers with oral contraceptives, or those requiring a non-oral route.

Vaginal (low strength)

- **Ethinylestradiol & etonogestrel**
  Vaginal ring releasing ethinylestradiol approx. 15 micrograms/24hr and etonogestrel approx. 120 micrograms/24hr (NuvaRing® £27.00 x 3)

7.3.2 PROGESTOGEN-ONLY CONTRACEPTIVES

7.3.2.1 Oral progestogen-only contraceptives

Traditional progestogen-only contraceptives (norethisterone) work by altering cervical mucus to prevent sperm penetration and for some women ovulation is also inhibited. The primary mode of action of the desogestrel-only pill is inhibition of ovulation. There is no data to suggest that some POPs are better at preventing pregnancy than others.

Prescribe by brand to promote patient familiarity and compliance.

- **Desogestrel**
  Tablets 75 micrograms (Cerazette® £8.68 x 84, Cerelle® £4.30 x 84, Zelleta® £3.51 x 84)
  CASH due to change to Zelleta from July 2014

- **Etynodiol diacetate**
  Tablets 500 micrograms (Femulen® £3.31 x 28)

- **Levonorgestrel**
  Tablets 30 micrograms (Norgestion® £0.92 x 35)

- **Norethisterone**
  Tablets 350 micrograms (Noriday® £2.10 x 84, Micronor® £2.11 x 84)
7.3.2.2 Parenteral progestogen-only contraceptives

- **Etonogestrel**
  Implant containing 68 mg (Nexplanon® £79.46 x 1)

- **Medroxyprogesterone acetate**
  Injection 150 mg/1mL (Depo-Provera® £6.01 x 1)  
  Injection 160mg/1mL (Sayana Press® £6.90 x 1)

[Long acting reversible contraception: the effective and appropriate use of long-acting reversible contraception](#)
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Clinical Guideline

7.3.2.3 Intra-uterine progestogen-only device

Special training required for fitting Jaydess® and Mirena® intra-uterine system.

- **Levonorgestrel**
  Intra-uterine system releasing 20 micrograms/24 hours (Mirena® £88.00 x 1)  
  13.5 micrograms intra-uterine system (Jaydess® £69.22x1)

7.3.3 SPERMICIDAL CONTRACEPTIVES

- **Nonoxinol ‘9’**
  2% gel (Gygel® £4.25 x 30g; £11.00 x 81g)

7.3.4 CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES

Intra-uterine devices (IUD)

The most effective IUD have at least 380mm² of copper and have banded copper on the arms. Smaller devices have been introduced to minimise side effects. Device choice will depend on individual patient factors.

- **Nova-T 380 IUD**
- **T-safe 380A IUD**
- **TT380 Slimline IUD**
- **TT380 Slimline Mini IUD**
7.3.5 EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

All eligible women presenting between 0-120 hours following UPSI or within 5 days of expected ovulation should be offered a copper IUD because of the low documented failure rate. Ulipristal is a drug treatment option for post coital contraception for women who present between 72 and 120 hours following unprotected intercourse or contraceptive failure.

- **Copper IUD**
  See section 7.3.4

- **Levonorgestrel**
  Tablets 1.5 mg (Levonelle® £5.20 x 1, Upostelle® £4.42 x 1) CASH are considering a change to Upostelle, but PGDs would need to be updated

- **Ulipristal acetate**
  Tablets 30 mg (ellaOne® £16.95 x 1)

See Endocrine system formulary for Esmya (in treatment of heavy menstrual bleeding associated with uterine fibroids).
7.4 DRUGS FOR GENITO-URINARY DISORDERS

7.4.1 URINARY RETENTION

- **Alfuzosin**
  - 2.5mg tablets, 10mg m/r tablets
- **Tamsulosin**
  - 400microgram m/r capsule

7.4.2 DRUGS FOR URINARY FREQUENCY, ENURESIS AND INCONTINENCE

Refer to [Management of overactive bladder syndrome in adults](#)

First line

- **Oxybutynin**
  - 2.5mg, 5mg tablets
  - 36mg (3.9mg/24hours) patch (patients unable to take or tolerate oral preparations)
- **Tolterodine**
  - 1mg, 2mg tablets
- **Darifenacin**
  - 7.5mg, 15mg m/r tablets

Second line

- **Oxybutynin**
  - 5mg m/r tablets
- **Tolterodine**
  - 4mg m/r capsules
- **Fesoterodine**
  - 4mg, 8mg m/r tablets
- **Trospium**
  - 20mg m/r tablets
- **Solifenacin**
  - 5mg, 10mg tablets

Other

- **Mirabegron**
  - 25mg, 50mg tablets
  - Prescribe according to [NICE TA290](#)

Mirabegron is contraindicated in patients with severe uncontrolled hypertension. Blood pressure should be measured before starting treatment and monitored regularly during treatment, especially in patients with hypertension. [Drug Safety Update volume 9 issue 2 October 2015: 2](#)

- **Duloxetine**
  - 20mg, 40mg capsules (Yentreve®)
  - See management of OAB guideline above for patient group reserved for.
Nocturnal enuresis
- Desmopressin 200 microgram tablets

7.4.3 DRUGS USED IN UROLOGICAL PAIN
- Lidocaine/lignocaine 2% syringes, 11mL (Instillagel)
- Potassium citrate Various preparations – check local availability. Effercitrate 1.5g tabs is the preparation used in COCH

7.4.4 BLADDER INSTALLATIONS AND UROLOGICAL SURGERY
Catheter patency solutions
- Sodium chloride 0.9% Uro-Trainer 100mL
- Solution G Uro-Trainer 100mL

7.4.5 DRUGS FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION
Prescribing restrictions apply on drugs used for erectile dysfunction. Please see the criteria listed in part XVIIIb of the Drug Tariff for further information.
- Alprostadil Various preparations available. Prescribing restrictions apply
- Avanafil 50mg, 100mg & 200mg tablets
- Aviptadil with Phentolamine 25mcg/2mg/0.35ml solution for injection ampoules
- Sildenafil Prescribing restrictions apply (please see prescribing policy for further information).
- Tadalafil 10mg & 20mg tablets when required dose.
- Tadalafil 2.5mg, 5mg or 20mg tablets once daily dose.
- Vardenafil 5mg, 10mg tablets & orodisp & 20mg tablets.
7.4.6 DRUGS FOR PREMATURE EJACULATION

- **Dapoxetine**
  30mg, 60mg tablets
  Prescribing restrictions apply
  Urology Specialist Clinic initiation

VACUUM PUMP DEVICES

**Imedicare**
- **SOMA Erect Response 2 manual**
- **SOMA Erect Response 2 XL manual**

**ES Sexual Health**
- **Endo Surgical Post T vacuum pump battery**