

1 October 2012

Dear Colleague

ALL WALES GUIDANCE ON PRESCRIBING FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

This letter informs you of the All Wales guidance on prescribing for erectile dysfunction. This guidance supersedes Welsh Health Circular WHC (99) 148. A copy of the guidance is enclosed for your information.

Local clinical audit and the analysis of prescribing patterns identified significant variations across Wales in the treatment of erectile dysfunction. In particular, the requirement for assessment and review by specialist services was causing capacity and access issues; it was also considered unnecessary for all patients to require a specialist assessment and review.

Consequently, the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) responded to a service identified need to review the extant circular and tasked the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG), a sub group of AWMSG, to undertake a systematic review.

The revised guidance removes the restriction of specialist assessment and review, enabling GPs to prescribe where appropriate. It also recommends Health Boards put in place clearly defined commissioning arrangements and provides advice on cost effective prescribing and an example of good practice. It will be for Local Health Boards to define arrangements for appropriate expertise.

Implementation of this guidance will improve consistency of approach to assessing, treating and reviewing patients with severe distress caused by erectile dysfunction, improve access and secure more effective use of specialist mental health team resources. AWMSG have endorsed the revised guidance and it is supported by LHB Associate Medical Directors.

From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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CPhO(2012)4

ALL WALES GUIDANCE ON PRESCRIBING FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

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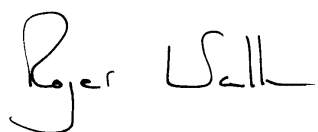
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Handwritten signature of Roger Walker in black ink.

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