

PCT Statin Choice for Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD

Surrey and Sussex Policy Recommendation Committee has undertaken a review of the evidence to support choice of statin for prevention of CVD (PR 2006/03). The review has considered evidence of clinical and cost-effectiveness, information on current activity, resources and costs, and opinion of key stakeholders.

This review has been considered by BHCPCT Priorities Committee and has been endorsed by the Professional Executive Committee.

SIMVASTATIN has been endorsed as the PCT statin of first choice.

- The body of evidence for simvastatin supports dosages of 20-40mg daily. Simvastatin 40mg daily (at night) is the recommended dose for initiation (unless specific drug interactions require lower doses).
- Simvastatin 40mg daily is equivalent in lipid lowering potency to atorvastatin 10mg daily and will be expected to get approximately 70% of patients to targets for cholesterol.
- National policy currently accepts 5 mmol/l for total cholesterol and 3 mmol/l for LDL cholesterol as targets for therapy as per the NSF for CHD.

Key findings and conclusions of the Surrey and Sussex Policy Recommendation Committee Statins Working Group as summarised below:

- Simvastatin, pravastatin and atorvastatin are relatively well-tolerated drugs and clinical differences are not significant. Corresponding data is not available for rosuvastatin.
- There is no evidence that any one statin is superior to any other in patients with diabetes. There is insufficient evidence available to support the routine use of more intensive statin regimens in secondary prevention and no evidence at all to support their use in primary prevention.
- If current prescribing patterns continue for the redefined (NICE Technology Appraisal 94) population at risk, additional costs of approximately £12 million will be incurred annually across Surrey and Sussex. Using simvastatin in at least 70% of cases as the first line statin for primary and secondary prevention of CVD could reduce the annual predicted spend on statins by up to £6 million.

Comparative costs of statins (28-day pack)

Product	5mg	10mg	20mg	40mg	80mg
Simvastatin		£1.54	£1.86	£3.40	£12.29 (£6.80 if 2x40mg)
Atorvastatin		£18.03	£24.64	£28.21	£28.21
Rosuvastatin	£18.03	£18.03	£29.69	£29.69	
Pravastatin		£1.76	£2.30	£3.48	
Fluvastatin			£13.99	£13.99	£17.60

Reference: Surrey Sussex Policy Recommendation Committee Policy Recommendation PR 2006/03

Drug costs are based on Drug Tariff – Nov 2006. Prices in hospitals are likely to vary due to procurement discounts.

November 2006 Kirstie Denley

Recommendation to be reviewed August 2008 or in light of relevant NICE guidance