

Patient Safety Alert

Memantine titration packs

July 2021

Internal alert reference number: HPFT/2021/016

This Patient Safety Alert has been prompted by recent Datix reports relating to the prescribing of Memantine titration packs and administration errors.

Background - There has been an incident of accidental overdose with Memantine when a carer has become confused with its administration, administering both the titration and the maintenance doses together.

- Memantine hydrochloride may be prescribed for a person with a diagnosis of moderate to severe Alzheimer's Disease
- The usual dose for most people is initially 5mg once daily, increased in steps of 5mg at weekly intervals, to a maximum of 20mg daily (NICE 2021). This 4 week titration starter regime may be prescribed and initiated after consultation with a specialist in Mental Health Services for Older Adults
- Following the titration regime, if no adverse effects the service user may be prescribed a maintenance dose of 20mg daily
- When a Trust prescriber issues a Memantine titration pack, they must provide clear verbal and written advice to the service user and their carer, on how to administer the titration regime. This should be stated in the GP letter which is copied to the service user and carer
- If issuing the FP10 for the maintenance dose at the same time as the titration pack, the prescriber is to consider issuing a post-dated FP10 for the maintenance dose, so it can only be supplied and commenced after the titration pack had finished
- This post-dated FP10 to include clear instruction to the community pharmacist who will be responsible for dispensing.

References/Pictures:

NICE Guidelines Dementia –
Memantine Hydrochloride May 2021.

Actions

1. This safety alert to be shared with community pharmacists by the Trust's Medicines Safety Officer
2. Safety Alert to be shared with all prescribers in the Trust.