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Pharmacy Department
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To: ALL WARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

From: Vince Goodey, Assistant Director Pharmacy Clinical Services

Date: 15TH November 2011

Re: DALTEPARIN FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL PREVENTION OF VTE

Tinzaparin injections, for the prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) will be unavailable until at least January 2012 owing to a manufacturing problem. In the interim **dalteparin** will be used in ELHT for the prevention of VTE.

- **The change will take place with immediate effect from Tuesday 15th November for Orthopaedics and Wednesday 16th November for Surgical and Medical areas. Obstetrics and Gynaecology have already changed.**
- **Tinzaparin** will continue to be used for the **treatment** of VTE

Dalteparin dosage recommendations are detailed below and on page 2:

Thromboprophylaxis- Dalteparin (Fragmin[®])

Medical Prophylaxis	5,000 international units once daily		
Surgical prophylaxis	Hip surgery	5,000 international units once daily	Continue for 5 weeks or as per protocol
	Knee surgery		Continue for 2 weeks or as per protocol
	All other surgery		Continue until patient is mobilised

Note that dosing is not weight-based for these indications above ¹

Dose adjustment in renal impairment is not required for prophylactic dosing ²

Thromboprophylaxis in Pregnancy Dalteparin (Fragmin®) ³

Body weight (pre-pregnancy or booking weight)					
	<50kg	50-90kg	91-130kg	131-170kg	>170kg
Usual prophylactic dose (once daily)	2500 international units	5000 international units	7500 international units	10,000 international units	75 international units/kg
High prophylactic/intermediate dose* (twice daily)	5,000 international units				

*High prophylactic/intermediate doses may be appropriate for women who are usually on long-term oral anticoagulants, most commonly because of previous venous thromboembolism or thrombophilia

In obesity (body weight >90kg), some obstetricians may prefer to prescribe the usual prophylactic dose in two divided doses

Dalteparin should be prescribed and administered in place of tinzaparin with respect to all ELHT written guidance or protocols for prevention of VTE which are temporarily converted to dalteparin

For further information contact the Pharmacy service via your ward team or the dispensaries

References

1. *Summary of Product Characteristics. Fragmin. Pfizer Limited 05/07/2011*
2. *Renal Drug Handbook Third Edition UK Renal Pharmacy Group*
3. *Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Green-top Guideline No 37 Thrombosis and Embolism during Pregnancy and the Puerperium, Reducing the Risk Nov 2009*