

### Prescribing Tip for Information

## Deprescribing: Antiplatelets (Aspirin, Clopidogrel, Ticagrelor, Dipyridamole and Prasugrel)

Part of a series of prescribing tips to support clinicians conducting Structure Medication Reviews (SMRs)

Prescriptions for Antiplatelets should be reassessed annually during a patient's routine medication review to ensure they are still indicated. **Always refer to the [SPC](#) for the most up to date information**

### Things to consider when undertaking a medication review of an Antiplatelet:

#### Indication

*Is the medication being prescribed for a licensed or recommended indication?*

For instance, consider whether an antiplatelet is being prescribed for Primary or Secondary prevention of Cardiovascular disease. Aspirin is not licensed for use in Primary Prevention of CVD and should not routinely be prescribed for this indication unless in exceptional circumstances.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Duration

*When was the medication last reviewed?*

*Has there been any specialist input which advises on course length?*

**Not all Antiplatelets are to be prescribed lifelong, therefore it is important to review the duration of therapy.**

For instance, Dual-Antiplatelet Therapy (DAPT) following an Acute Coronary Syndrome (with or without Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) is normally to be continued for 12 months and then aspirin alone remains lifelong<sup>3</sup>. The duration of DAPT can be extended based on specialist advice, therefore, it is recommended to review the latest clinic letters to clarify the intended course length before discontinuing DAPT.

#### Dose

*Does the dose need to be altered?*

For instance, Ticagrelor prescribed as part of DAPT following an Acute Coronary Syndrome is licensed at a dose of 90mg twice a day for 12 months. However, if the course is extended past 12 months then the licensed dose reduces to 60mg twice a day for up to three years.<sup>4</sup>

### Supporting NICE guidance to aid with medication review of Antiplatelets

[NICE CKS – Antiplatelet Treatment](#)

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

#### References:

1. British National Formulary. Aspirin. October 2020. <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/aspirin.html#indicationsAndDoses>
2. NICE CKS. Antiplatelet treatment. Scenario: Primary Prevention of CVD. August 2020. <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/antiplatelet-treatment/management/primary-prevention-of-cvd/>
3. NICE CKS. Antiplatelet treatment. Scenario: Secondary Prevention of CVD. August 2020. <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/antiplatelet-treatment/management/secondary-prevention-of-cvd/>
4. Electronic Medicines Compendium. Ticagrelor. September 2019. <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5767/smpc>