

Rivastigmine Patches

Background

A new rivastigmine patch has come to market Zeyzelf™ brand it is a 4.6mg/day or 9.5mg/day patch but applied twice weekly rather than the daily patches.

The formulations appear the same when dose is described in mg/24h. The twice weekly patch has the same delivery rate as the daily patch (4.6mg or 9.5mg/24h) but contains 25.92mg of rivastigmine which is released over 3 to 4 days.

Also, the packaging of at least one of the generic brands looks almost identical to Zeyzelf (the twice weekly patch).

There is also the issue at the moment that there is a supply shortage of some of the daily patches, this is causing more risk as patients are being switched between formulations, and/or different generics are being selected.

It is difficult to tell the difference between the formulations on some prescribing and dispensing systems which is leading to picking errors

There have been a number of incidents nationally including one locally where the wrong patch has been prescribed, procured, dispensed or administered.

Recommendations

- Consider updating prescribing and dispensing systems so that only the daily patch is available in the formulary.
- Take extra care when prescribing, dispensing and administering rivastigmine patches to ensure the correct preparation is given.
- When prescribing rivastigmine patches counsel the patient and carers on the different preparations so that they are aware of the risks