

07/05/2022

Dear EA and MI team,

In the example he had given me, the GP had written in the consultation: GP to please arrange F2F review tomorrow.

This patient had however declined a F2F last night that was offered by our GP.

He explained how this is placing an additional workload on his members of staff - as they have to action the request even though it's not urgent.

Is this the correct process that should be in place:

**Urgent F/U's** - KGPC admin team call the surgery the following morning/Monday morning (after the weekend) if an urgent follow-up/referral/2WW is needed for the patient.

**Routine F/U's** - the patient should contact the surgery to organise

#### **MHRA update**

Pregabalin has been shown to cause a small increased risk of congenital malformations if used in pregnancy – please bear this in mind if prescribing (unlikely in extended hours clinics as previously discussed in gabapentinoid audits)

#### **Advice for healthcare professionals:**

- an observational study of more than 2,700 pregnancies exposed to pregabalin has shown use in the first trimester to be associated with a slightly increased risk of major congenital malformations compared with exposure to no antiepileptic drugs or to lamotrigine or to duloxetine – see details of the study data below
- continue to provide counselling to patients using pregabalin on:
  - the potential risks to an unborn baby (see [separate patient safety leaflet](#))
  - the need to use effective contraception during treatment
- continue to avoid use of pregabalin during pregnancy unless clearly necessary and only if the benefit to the patient clearly outweighs the potential risk to the fetus – ensure the patient has a full understanding of the benefits, risks, and alternatives, and is part of the decision-making process
- advise patients planning a pregnancy or who become pregnant during treatment to make an appointment to discuss their health condition and any medicines they are taking

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/pregabalin-lyrica-findings-of-safety-study-on-risks-during-pregnancy>

Next audit - Branka (clinical lead for KEC) and I will be looking at again at antibiotic prescribing (amoxicillin) and will share learning in due course.

Happy Easter!

Regards,

Richard Hughes, Clinical Lead