

**metformin 500mg and 1000mg powder for oral solution
(Glucophage®) (No.610/10)**

Merck Serono Limited

Product Update

05 March 2010

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees (ADTCs) on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

ADVICE: following an abbreviated submission

metformin powder for oral solution (Glucophage®) is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland.

Licensed indication under review: the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus, particularly in overweight patients, when dietary management and exercise alone does not result in adequate glycaemic control:

- In adults, metformin may be used as monotherapy or in combination with other oral anti-diabetic agents or insulin;
- In children, from 10 years of age and adolescents, metformin may be used as monotherapy or in combination with insulin.

A reduction of diabetic complications has been shown in overweight type 2 diabetic adult patients treated with metformin as first-line therapy after diet failure.

SMC restriction: Use is restricted to patients who are unable to swallow the solid dosage formulation.

There is a price premium relative to metformin immediate release tablets but a saving compared to an existing formulation of metformin oral solution.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 13 January 2010.

**Chairman,
Scottish Medicines Consortium**

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