

Dear Pharmacist,

Your patient has been commenced on systemic anti cancer therapy for the treatment of Prostate Cancer, Abiraterone. **This is a hormone treatment, not a cytotoxic and therefore requires no safe handling procedures.**

Abiraterone (Zytiga) is supplied as 500mg tablets and is taken along with Prednisolone on a continuous basis. Patients will be reviewed every 4, 8 or 12 weeks by the uro-oncology team at the Edinburgh Cancer Centre (ECC).

Treatment with Abiraterone will be ongoing whilst there is continuing clinical benefit from therapy and the patient tolerates the drug. The recommended starting dose is Abiraterone 1000mgs once daily along with Prednisolone 10mg once daily.

The initial supply of Abiraterone will be made by the ECC. Patients will be closely monitored by the uro-oncology team and all further prescriptions will be issued by the ECC and will be dispensed by yourselves at 4 weekly intervals.

The following are common side effects of Abiraterone to be aware are - hypertension, hepatotoxicity and fatigue. Further information on Abiraterone can be found at <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/32865>

If your patient experiences side effects or you require any further clinical information please do not hesitate to contact the the CNS team (0131 537 3186).

Please visit the Community pharmacy website for further details of tiered services <http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/pharmacies/community-pharmacy/local-services/>.

If your query is not answered by visiting the website, you have supply or payment issues please contact the community pharmacy team at NHS Borders on 01896 826604 or communitypharmacy.team@borders.scot.nhs.uk .

Yours sincerely

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