



**Patient Group Direction for the Supply of  
furosemide 20/40mg tablets up to 240mg orally  
to heart failure patients attending heart failure clinics or on community  
home visits in NHS Borders**

**This document authorises the supply of furosemide 20/40 mg tablets up  
to 240mg orally by Cardiac specialist/heart failure nurses to Heart failure  
patients who meet the criteria for inclusion under the terms of the  
document**

**The cardiac specialist/heart failure nurses seeking to supply furosemide  
20/40mg tablets up to 240mg orally must ensure that all clients have been  
screened and meet the criteria before supply takes place**

**The purpose of this Patient Group Direction is to allow specialist nurses  
to run nurse led clinics and visits without medical input.**

**PGD reviewed by: Gillian Donaldson, Allison Carruthers**

**This direction was authorised on: OCTOBER 2010**

**The direction will be reviewed by: OCTOBER 2012**

**Clinician Responsible for Training and Review: Consultant Cardiologist**



**Patient Group Direction for the supply of furosemide 20/40mg tablets without a Prescription for a Named Individual by cardiac specialist/heart failure nurses employed by NHS Borders in Borders General Hospital or on community visits**

**1. This Patient Group Direction relates to the following specific preparation:**

Name of medicine, Strength, Formulation	furosemide (frusemide) 20-40mg tablet
Legal status	Prescription only medicine (POM)
Storage	Store in a dry place not exceeding 25 degrees C
Dose	20-40mg daily increased in resistant oedema to 240mg daily
Route/method	Oral
Frequency	Daily or split into twice daily if preferred
Total dose Quantity (Maximum/Minimum)	28 total quantity for supply 240mg max daily dose
Advice to Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain adequate fluid intake</li> <li>• Report any dizziness</li> <li>• Diuresis acts within 1 hour and complete within 6 hrs</li> <li>• If on twice daily dosing take second dose of day no later than 2pm to minimise disruption of sleep</li> </ul>
Follow up Arrangements	Encourage patients to weigh themselves daily and to consult doctor or heart failure nurse if they have persistent weight gain.
Relevant Warnings	<p>Specialist nurse will monitor urea and electrolytes after commencement or increasing furosemide within 1-2 weeks.</p> <p>Urea and electrolyte in balance, monitoring required</p> <p>If urea &gt;18 or creatinine &gt;180 before initiation discuss with relevant doctor</p>

**2. Clinical condition**

Clinical Condition to be treated	Adults with oedema due to heart failure
Criteria for inclusion	<p>Pulmonary or peripheral oedema due to left or right ventricular failure.</p> <p>Aortic stenosis</p>
Criteria for exclusion	<p>Renal failure with anuria</p> <p>Hypokalaemia</p> <p>Hypersensitivity to furosemide or its excipients</p> <p>Hypovolaemia, dehydration, and/or hypotension</p>

Action if excluded	Referral to consultant cardiologist or general physician.
Action if declines	Referral to consultant cardiologist or general physician and document informed refusal
Interactions with other medicaments and other forms of interaction	<p>Enhanced hypotensive effects with other medications including ACE inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, beta-blockers, tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline), phenothiazines (e.g. chlorpromazine), <math>\alpha</math>-blockers (e.g. tamsulosin), MAOIs, nitrates, baclofen, tizanidine (See B.N.F) Alcohol</p> <p>Enhanced nephrotoxicity with ACE inhibitors and Angiotensin II receptor antagonists</p> <p>Risk of ototoxicity with other ototoxic drugs</p> <p>If patient has low serum potassium from furosemide toxicity of digoxin and amiodarone is increased</p>

### 3. Records - Copies to patients medical records, specialist nurses record and copy to G.P

- The following records should be kept (either paper or computer based) -
  - The GP practice, clinic, hospital, and ward or department
  - The patient name and CHI number
  - The medicine name, dose, route, time of dose(s), and where appropriate, start date, number of doses and or period of time, for which the medicine is to be supplied or administered
  - Drug batch number and expiry
  - The signature and printed name of the approved healthcare professional who supplied or administered the medicine
  - The patient group direction title and/or number
  - Whether patient met the inclusion criteria and whether the exclusion criteria were assessed
  - Quantity supplied / received and current stock balance
- Preparation, audit trail, data collection and reconciliation -
  - Stock balances should be reconcilable with Receipts, Administration, Records and disposals on a patient by patient basis.
- Storage -
  - Store in a dry place below 25°C



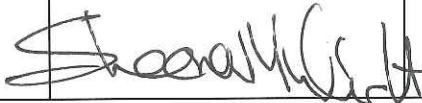

### 4. Professional Responsibility

- ❖ All Health Professionals will ensure he/she has the relevant training and is competent in all aspects of medication, including contra-indications and the recognition and treatment of adverse effects. He/she will attend training updates as appropriate. For those involved in immunisation, regular anaphylaxis updates are mandatory.
- ❖ Nurses will have due regard for the NMC Code of Professional Conduct, standards for conduct, performance and ethics (2008) and NMC Standards for Medicines Management (2008)

## 5. References

- ❖ British National Formulary (BNF) current edition <http://bnf.org/bnf/index.htm>
- ❖ Borders Joint Formulary (BJF)  
[http://intranet/new\\_intranet/microsites/index.asp?siteid=65&uid=1](http://intranet/new_intranet/microsites/index.asp?siteid=65&uid=1)
- ❖ Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) [www.medicines.org](http://www.medicines.org)
- ❖ NICE Heart Failure Guidance

**Patient Group Direction for the Provision of Furosemide 20/40mg tablets by Heart Failure Nurses employed by NHS Borders**

<b>This Patient Group Direction is Approved for use by the under-signed :</b>			
Job Title	Name	Signed	Date
Senior Doctor/Dentist for relevant clinical area	Ross Cameron		17/6/10
NHS Borders Chief Pharmacist	Alison Wilson		22/6/10
NHS Borders Senior Health Professional for Clinical Area	Sheena Wright		21/6/10
<b>PGD AUTHORISED ON <u>27/1/2010</u> BY NHS BORDERS ADTC/CHAIRPERSON</b>			
<b>Signed by ADTC CHAIRPERSON:</b> 			
<b>Name:</b> <u>Vince Sumner</u>			
<b>The Health Professionals named below, being employees of NHS Borders based at Borders General Hospital Cardiology Department are authorised to provide and/or administer this medication under this Patient Group Direction and agree to provide and/or administer this medication in accordance with this Patient Group Direction</b>			
Name of Health Professional	Job Title	Signed	Date

