

Sacubitril/valsartan (Entresto®) prescribing patient pathway for heart failure in South East London

Heart failure specialist in a hospital or community setting:

Following a shared decision by a heart failure specialist (nurse, pharmacist or doctor) with the patient, sacubitril/valsartan is initiated for symptomatic chronic heart failure with reduced left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF \leq 35% [NICE TA](#)) in patients who cannot tolerate or who remain symptomatic on ACEI/ARB therapy. Clear communication about any medication changes is to be given to the patient/carer to improve patient safety. Patient information link: [MedTap: Heart failure information](#)

If the patient is already taking an ACEI- STOP therapy for 36 hours before starting sacubitril/valsartan. Patients taking ARBs may start sacubitril/valsartan on the day after stopping ARB therapy.

Prescribing will transfer to primary care when the patient is on a maintenance dose and the patient's therapy is uptitrated and monitored to the highest tolerated dose by the specialist as per [NICE TA](#). *Recommended starting dose is 49/51mg twice daily and the dose is doubled at 2 to 4 weeks to the target dose 97/103mg twice daily if tolerated by the patient. An initiation dose of 24/26mg twice daily is utilised in patients with with hypotension (SBP \leq 100 to 110mmHg), moderate renal impairment (eGFR 30-60ml/min) and moderate hepatic impairment or ALT/AST \geq 2xULN.*

Baseline results, dosing recommendations and follow up plans to be communicated to primary care via clinic letter or discharge letter (*this replaces initiation and transfer of care forms*): U&Es: potassium, sodium, renal function (CrCl) and blood pressure (BP). It is good practice for the HF specialist to notify the patient's community pharmacy of medication changes to reduce the risk of medication errors and ensure patient safety (*especially for patients requiring blister packs*).

Primary care:

Remove ACEI or ARB from repeat prescriptions and medication lists, add sacubitril valsartan to repeat lists and communicate changes with the patient's community pharmacy especially for blister pack patients to reduce the risk of co-prescribing errors and potential acute kidney injury (AKI) and/or high potassium.

Continue prescribing sacubitril/valsartan at the recommended maintenance dose after initiation and following communication from the heart failure team (*amber 2 on SEL formulary*). The patient will continue to be followed up by the heart failure team (nurses, pharmacists or doctors) until they are on maximum tolerated therapy. The patient will remain under the long- term care of their heart failure consultant.

See [SEL pharmacological management of HF](#) guidance page 8 for further prescribing and monitoring information for sacubitril/valsartan. There is also an [FAQ document](#) for primary care concerning sacubitril/valsartan.

Monitoring: A 6 monthly medical review is recommended by [NICE](#) for HF patients and for supporting adherence to medication regimes- check BP, sodium, potassium, liver function, renal function and clinical assessment of functional capacity, fluid status, cardiac rhythm (minimum of examining the pulse), cognitive status and nutritional status

Review medication and refer to HF team (*contact details below*) **if concerns about:** SBP <95mmHg with symptomatic hypotension, angioedema (stop sacubitril/valsartan), serum potassium \geq 5mmol/L (stop sacubitril/valsartan if \geq 5.4mmol/L), severe hepatic impairment, eGFR <30ml/min or increased Cr >50% from baseline, dehydration, worsening HF symptoms, fluid overload/weight gain, pregnancy/breastfeeding (sacubitril valsartan is contra-indicated) or if the patient is experiencing psychiatric events as an adverse effect.

Borough	Heart Failure Community Team contact details
Bexley	Email: oxl-tr.cardiac@nhs.net ; Tel: 020 7188 8952 or 0208 3197060
Bromley	Email: kch-tr.PRUHheartfailurenurses@nhs.net Tel: 01689866097 and Bleep number is 739 Email: kch-tr.br-bromleyintegratedheartfailurenurses@nhs.net Tel: 0797 1484 508
Greenwich	Email: oxl-tr.cardiac@nhs.net Tel: 0208 3197060
Lambeth & Southwark	Email: Gst-tr.KHPcommunityHF@nhs.net Tel: 020 3049 4652
Lewisham	Email: LH.commuhfreferrals@nhs.net Tel: 0203 049 3473