

Explanatory notes for WeMeReC Maps: Co-proxamol prescribing - update

Co-proxamol is an analgesic or painkiller.

Each tablet contains paracetamol (325mg) in combination with a low dose of an opioid analgesic - dextropropoxyphene (32.5mg).

The map of Wales is divided by **Local Health Board (LHB)** areas; there are 21 LHBs and one unified healthcare board, each of which is co-terminous with local government unitary authorities.

Health Solution Wales is an NHS organisation. Its Prescribing Services Unit provides data entry and pricing services relating to prescriptions dispensed within Wales. It also is responsible for the provision of prescribing information and information systems to enable drug expenditure to be monitored.

Further information is available from www.hsw.wales.nhs.uk

Prescribing Units (PUs) is an analysis term that was developed to take account of the greater need of elderly patients for medication. Patients aged 65 and over are counted as three prescribing units and patients under 65 and temporary residents as one.

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) provides advice to the Minister for Health & Social Services in Wales in an effective, efficient and transparent manner on strategic medicines management and prescribing. The AWMSG, acting in a strategic and advisory capacity, is the conduit through which consensus can be reached on medicines management issues, especially those affecting both primary and secondary care.

Further information is available from www.wales.nhs.uk/awmsg

CSM = The Committee on Safety of Medicines. The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) which was established on 30 October 2005, now combines the functions of the former Medicines Commission and Committee on Safety of Medicines.

The CHM is an medical advisory committee of the **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)**. The MHRA is an executive agency of the Department of Health. Its aim is to "enhance and safeguard the health of the public by ensuring that medicines and medical devices work, and are acceptably safe".

Further information is available from www.mhra.gov.uk

CNS = central nervous system.