

## DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

### **SGLT2 INHIBITORS** **Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin and Empagliflozin**

- SGLT2 inhibitors are indicated in the management of type 2 diabetes and are a first line option for those patients with chronic heart failure or established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in combination with metformin.
- SGLT2 inhibitors licensed for use within the UK are:
  - Canagliflozin
  - Dapagliflozin
  - Empagliflozin
- There is a risk of diabetic ketoacidosis with SGLT2 inhibitors and serious, life threatening and fatal cases of DKA have been reported. In several cases the presentation was atypical with only moderately elevated blood glucose levels.
- There have been two reported incidents within SWB Trust of this occurring with one patient requiring ITU admission
- In order to minimise the risk of DKA in patients on an SGLT2 inhibitor the below **must** be followed:
  - Interrupt SGLT2 inhibitor treatment in patients hospitalised for major surgery or acute serious illnesses; treatment may be restarted once the patient's condition has stabilised and blood ketones are normal.
  - Test for raised ketones in patients with signs and symptoms of DKA even if plasma glucose levels are near normal
  - Use canagliflozin with caution in patients with risk factors for DKA
  - Discontinue treatment if DKA is suspected or diagnosed
  - Do not restart treatment with an SGLT2 inhibitor in patients who experienced DKA during use unless another cause for DKA was identified and resolved
  - Patients must be informed of the signs and symptoms of DKA and advised to seek medical attention if they develop any of these.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD PHARMACIST OR THE PHARMACY  
DEPARTMENT: CITY x5263; SANDWELL x3783**

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