

This Medicines Information Leaflet is produced locally to optimise the use of medicines by encouraging prescribing that is safe, clinically appropriate and cost-effective to the NHS.

Oral NSAID Prescribing Key Points

Key Recommendations

Oral NSAIDs are widely prescribed and although effective anti-inflammatory and analgesic agents they are associated with significant side effects and mortality.

- All NSAIDs should generally be used at the **lowest effective dose** and for the **shortest period** of time necessary to control symptoms.
- Co-prescribe a proton pump inhibitor with NSAIDs for people who have an increased risk of GI adverse effects (see [NICE CKS](#)).
- Diclofenac preparations such as suppositories can be used in A&E and Maternity for short term analgesia but is **not advised** in general ward settings. It is associated with high cardiovascular risk and is no longer available without prescription in the community.

Indications ([BNF](#))([NICE](#))

- Inflammatory arthritis
- Osteoarthritis
- Back pain
- Soft tissue disorders
- Dental pain

Contraindications ([NICE](#)):

- Cardiovascular disease
- GI risk (bleeding, symptomatic ulcers, perforation, obstruction)
- Hepatic impairment
- Renal impairment
- Patients on anticoagulants, steroids or SSRIs

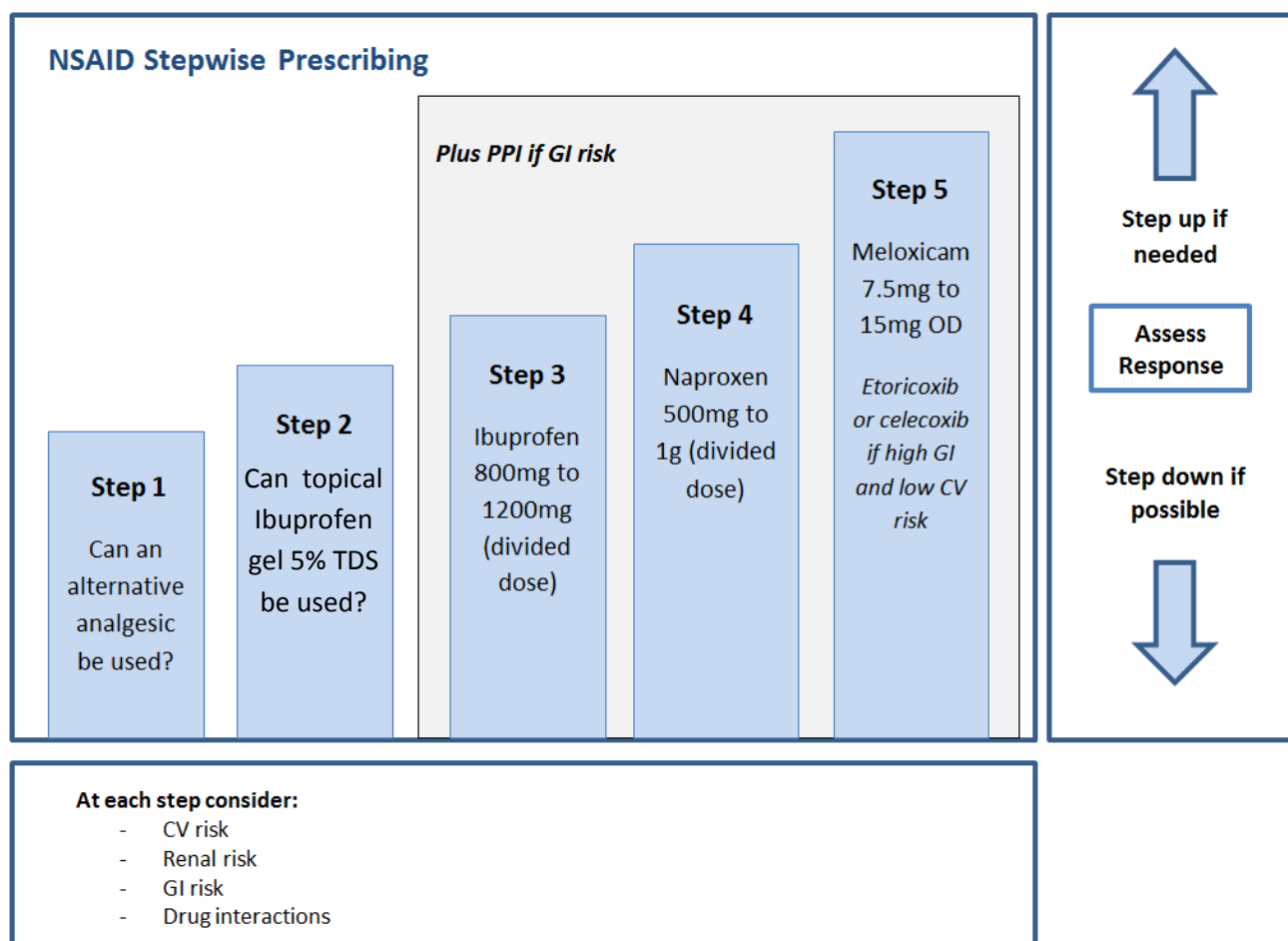
NSAIDs should be used with caution in:

- Patients aged 65 and over
- Women trying to conceive (NSAIDs reduce fertility)
- Patients with inflammatory bowel disease
- Patients on low dose aspirin (75mg)
- Heavy smokers

Adverse Effects

- Dyspepsia, GI bleeding and perforation
- Renal impairment and failure
- Heart failure
- Thrombi, stroke and MI
- Prolonged bleeding
- Exacerbation of asthma

Prescribing Guidelines



References

NICE *Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs Key therapeutic topic [KTT13]* February 2016

BNF *10.1.1 Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs* October 2016

Clinical Knowledge Summaries *NSAIDs - prescribing issues* June 2015

Prepared by:

Dr E Phipps, Public Health SpR.

With advice from:

Dr P Bowness, Consultant Rheumatologist; Sara Wilds, Oxfordshire CCG.

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