



AN RIALTÓIR CÓGAISÍOCHTA
THE PHARMACY REGULATOR

Programme Specification for the Diagnosis and Treatment of a Severe Angina Attack and the Supply and Administration of Glyceryl Trinitrate Training Course

Version 1.0

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Part One

Generic Interim Accreditation Standards

[The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland¹](#) apply to educational programmes for the Supply and Administration of Glyceryl Trinitrate in Emergency Situations. The generic standards should be referred to when accrediting an education and training programme for the Diagnosis and Treatment of a Severe Angina Attack and the Supply and Administration of Glyceryl Trinitrate.

Part Two

Indicative Desired Programme Content and Deliverables

The clinical aspects addressed in this specification are intended to refresh and build on the existing knowledge-base and expertise of pharmacists. Specifically the aim of the training is to enable pharmacists to:

- Diagnose and treat a severe angina attack
- Refresh their knowledge on the properties and usage of glyceryl trinitrate (GTN)
- Supply and administer glyceryl trinitrate in emergency situations in line with SI 449 of 2015
- Identify exclusion criteria and precautions associated with GTN use.
- Manage possible side effects or adverse events resulting from administration of glyceryl trinitrate
- Store glyceryl trinitrate in line with the SmPC
- Make appropriate records following supply and administration of glyceryl trinitrate in an emergency

It is recommended that the learning outcomes be achieved through an online format. Pharmacists must meet the relevant training requirements as specified by the PSI Council.

The following indicative learning objectives are a general guide for training providers to an appropriate scope of the curriculum content for this programme.

The learning outcomes have been broadly divided into two key areas:

¹ Revised version approved by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 26 June 2012.

Key Area 1: Principles of an Angina Attack in Adults and the Supply and Administration of Glyceryl Trinitrate Sublingual Spray to Adults in an Emergency Situation

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Give a brief overview of an angina attack and how to recognise signs and symptoms of a severe angina attack
- Describe the therapeutic management of angina
- Discuss the causes of an angina attack to include general overview of triggers and the identification of high risk groups
- Give details of precautionary measures and management of the patient (including long term care)
- Detail the procedure to assess patients in an emergency, giving a diagnosis, and explain the relevant differential diagnoses
- Explain the mechanism of action, dose, cautions, side effects and administration of glyceryl trinitrate sublingual spray products available
- Describe the treatment of a severe angina attack with glyceryl trinitrate sublingual spray according to national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Describe the treatment of a severe angina attack with glyceryl trinitrate sublingual spray according to relevant national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Briefly describe other treatments of a severe angina attack and principles of long term angina management
- Identify the key areas for the provision of information to patients on the long term management of angina, signs and symptoms of angina and the treatment of this with glyceryl trinitrate
- Explain the principles around the safe supply of glyceryl trinitrate including safe storage and disposal, exclusion criteria, the management of excluded patients and precautions for supply
- Describe the methods for assessment of the patient
- Give details of measures to ensure patient comfort and safety
- Summarise the overall management of the emergency situation
- Describe how to correctly prepare and administer glyceryl trinitrate in accordance with the SmPC, including selecting the correct dose

Key Area 2: Post-administration and Follow up

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Describe care post administration including appropriate positioning of patient and monitoring for signs of improvement or deterioration

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- Briefly explain the steps following administration of glyceryl trinitrate sublingual spray, details to be explained to the patient including the possible side effects and need to contact their doctor; hospital management, referral to an angina specialist
- Describe the process of referral of the patient to another regulated health professional for additional care as needed
- Describe the system in place to record/document the diagnosis and treatment of a severe angina attack and the supply and administration of glyceryl trinitrate in line with SI449/2015
- Specify the requirement to notify other health providers and other appropriate agencies as required (including information on adverse drug reactions)
- Reflect on the delivery of the service and obtain feedback to ensure continuous quality improvement

References

British Heart Foundation <https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/conditions/angina>

Irish Heart Foundation https://www.irishheart.ie/iopen24/angina-t-7_19_49.html

Patient Group Direction for Glyceryl Trinitrate (GTN) Version 01. PGD to be used in accordance with the East Lancashire Medicines Management Board joint formulary and guidelines. (Available from: <http://www.elmmb.nhs.uk/search/?q=GTN>

PGD Suite: Unscheduled Care. Glyceryl Trinitrate (GTN) Sublingual/Buccal, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. (Available from: <http://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=82328&type=full&servicetype=Inline>)

PHECC National Qualification in Emergency Medical Technology (NQEMT) Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) Assessment Sheets. Level 4 – Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Approval date: September 2015. (Available from: <https://www.phecit.ie/Images/PHECC/Members%20and%20Students/LD%20Assessment%20Sheets%20EMT%202014.docx.pdf>)

All websites accessed 23/12/2015