

INTERIM GUIDANCE

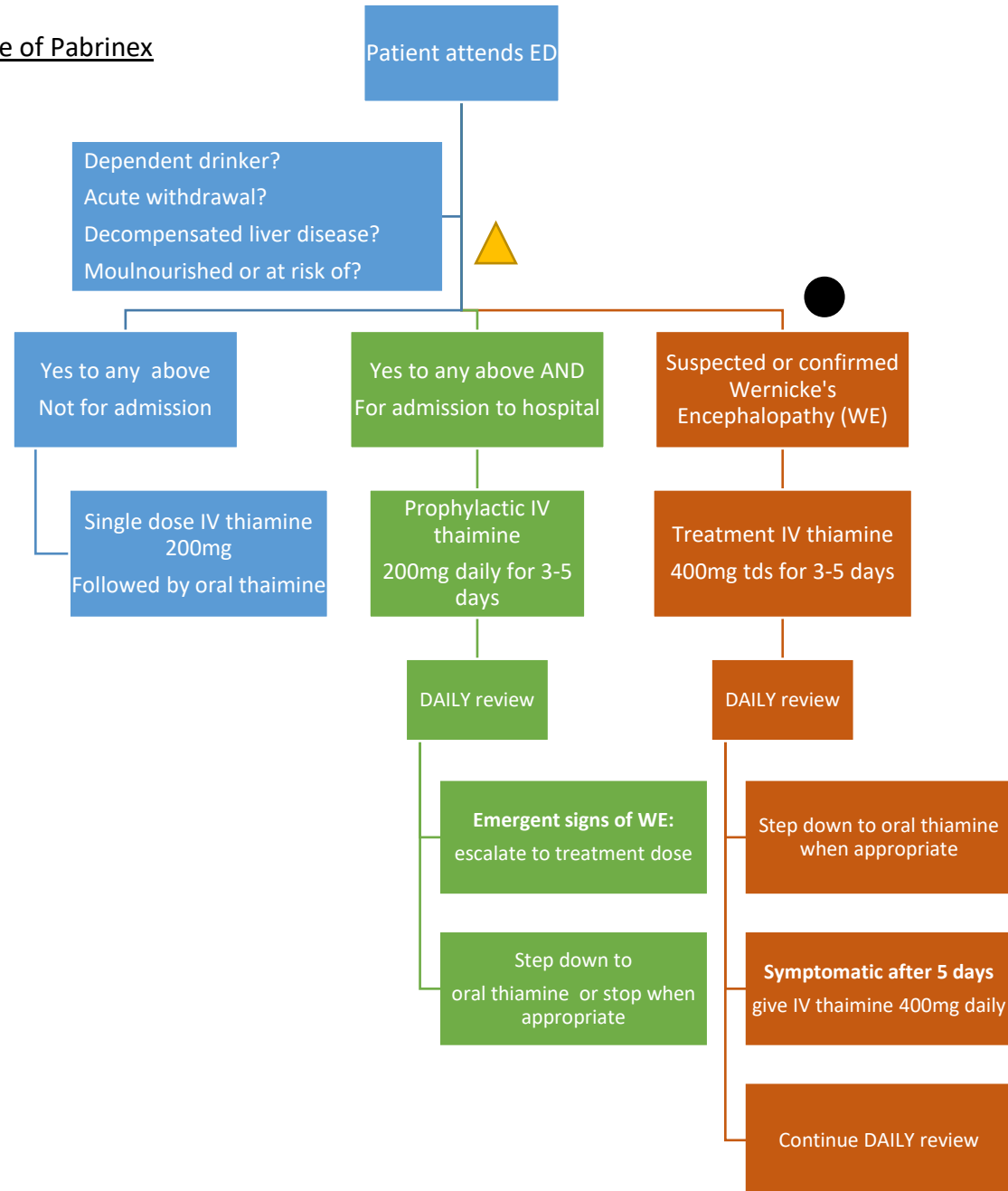
Use of IV/oral thiamine in alcohol withdrawal during shortage of Pabrinex

This flow chart should be used in conjunction with PAT/T 25 Alcohol Issues in the Acute General Hospital Setting

▲ Alcohol audit and SAD-Q score MUST still be performed to establish chlordiazepoxide/lorazepam requirements.

● Patients with any of the following MUST be prescribed treatment for Wernicke's Encephalopathy (WE) with IV thiamine 400mg TDS via separate manual addition to Wellsky:

- impaired eye movements (ophthalmoplegia)
- unsteady walking (ataxia)
- confusion



Wellsky protocol changes:

The current wellsky protocols (shown in white) will have Pabrinex removed and replaced with the IV/oral thiamine doses shown in the green column. Any patients showing signs of Wernicke's Encephalopathy (WE) e.g. impaired eye movements (ophthalmoplegia), unsteady walking (ataxia) or confusion will need to be prescribed a treatment dose of IV thiamine (400mg tds for 3-5 days) with a daily review; any patients still symptomatic after 5 days should be prescribed 400mg IV thiamine daily until symptoms have resolved.

Moderate dependency

Patients who drink 15 – 30 units / day and are experiencing or report experiencing physical withdrawal symptoms on stopping alcohol {+ PRN Chlordiazepoxide 30mg in response to CIWA-AR score}.

Day 1	Chlordiazepoxide 20mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	Any patient displaying signs of WE (ataxia, confusion, ophthalmoplegia) MUST be prescribed a treatment dose of IV thiamine 400mg TDS via separate, manual addition to Wellsky.
Day 2	Chlordiazepoxide 20mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 3	Chlordiazepoxide 15mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 4	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 5	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg BD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 6	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg OD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	

Severe dependency

Patients who drink 30 – 49 units / day and are experiencing or report experiencing physical withdrawal symptoms on stopping alcohol {+ PRN Chlordiazepoxide 30mg in response to CIWA-AR score}.

Day 1	Chlordiazepoxide 30mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	Any patient displaying signs of WE (ataxia, confusion, ophthalmoplegia) MUST be prescribed a treatment dose of IV thiamine 400mg TDS via separate, manual addition to Wellsky.
Day 2	Chlordiazepoxide 30mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 3	Chlordiazepoxide 25mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 4	Chlordiazepoxide 20mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 5	Chlordiazepoxide 15mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 6	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 7	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg BD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 8	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg OD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	

Very Severe Dependency

Patients who drink 50 – 60+ units / day and are experiencing or report experiencing physical withdrawal symptoms on stopping alcohol {+ PRN Chlordiazepoxide 30mg in response to CIWA-AR score}.

Day 1	Chlordiazepoxide 45mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 400mg TDS	Any patient displaying signs of WE (ataxia, confusion, ophthalmoplegia) MUST be prescribed a treatment dose of IV thiamine 400mg TDS via separate, manual addition to Wellsky.
Day 2	Chlordiazepoxide 40mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 3	Chlordiazepoxide 35mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 4	Chlordiazepoxide 30mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 5	Chlordiazepoxide 25mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 6	Chlordiazepoxide 20mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 7	Chlordiazepoxide 15mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 8	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg QDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 9	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg BD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 10	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg OD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	

Patients with decompensated liver disease/or in shortage of chlordiazepoxide

Moderate dependency

Patients who drink 15 – 30 units / day and are experiencing or report experiencing physical withdrawal symptoms on stopping alcohol (+ PRN 0.5mg Lorazepam in response to CIWA-AR score).

Day 1	Lorazepam 0.5mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	Any patient displaying signs of WE (ataxia, confusion, ophthalmoplegia) MUST be prescribed a treatment dose of IV thiamine 400mg TDS via separate, manual addition to Wellsky.
Day 2	Lorazepam 0.5mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 3	Lorazepam 0.5mg TDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 4	Lorazepam 0.5mg BD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 5	Lorazepam 0.5mg ON	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	

Severe dependency

Patients who drink 30 – 49 units / day and are experiencing or report experiencing physical withdrawal symptoms on stopping alcohol (+ PRN 0.5mg Lorazepam in response to CIWA-AR score)

Day 1	Lorazepam 1.5mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	Any patient displaying signs of WE (ataxia, confusion, ophthalmoplegia) MUST be prescribed a treatment dose of IV thiamine 400mg TDS via separate, manual addition to Wellsky.
Day 2	Lorazepam 1mg QDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 3	Lorazepam 1mg TDS	Pabrinex 2 x pair TDS	IV thiamine 200mg OD	
Day 4	Lorazepam 1mg TDS	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 5	Lorazepam 1mg BD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 6	Lorazepam 0.5mg BD	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	
Day 7	Lorazepam 0.5mg ON	Oral Thiamine 100mg TDS	Oral thiamine 100mg TDS	

References

Summary of Product Characteristics: Thiamine hydrochloride Dr Reddy's Laboratories 200mg in 2mL (12/2022)

Medusa NHS Injectable Medicines Guide: Monograph for Thiamine Hydrochloride (intravenous- Adult)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS): Using and prescribing thiamine in alcohol dependence.

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/using-and-prescribing-thiamine-in-alcohol-dependence/>

Collaborators

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