

# MEDICATION SAFETY ALERT

Medication safety alerts are published to raise awareness of risks with medicines. Their aim is to minimise harm to patients by promoting the safe use of medicines and reducing the risk of errors.

## PATIENT ADMINISTRATION ERRORS WITH METHOTREXATE

**There have been several recent incidents reported when patients have taken methotrexate, as a 2.5mg daily dose, instead of as a once weekly dose. This has occurred despite methotrexate being prescribed and labelled as a once weekly dose.**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**When prescribing, dispensing or counselling patients on methotrexate**

- **Ensure patient is specifically counselled on the correct dose, i.e. once weekly, on the same day each week**
- **Review SOPs to ensure that counselling on dose is recommended and documented for all prescriptions for methotrexate**
- **Ensure dispensing labelling is clear e.g. Take EIGHT tablets ONCE weekly**
- **Only prescribe and dispense 2.5mg tablets**

Further information <http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59800>

For further help contact :

- Rheumatology secretaries via switchboard 01482 875875
- Pharmacy Department, HEY (HRI) 01482 675622
- Primary Care Medicines Optimisation Team (Hull, ERY) 01482 672142
- Pharmacy Department, Humber Foundation NHS Trust 01482 301724