


Potential Clinical safety issue with Methotrexate

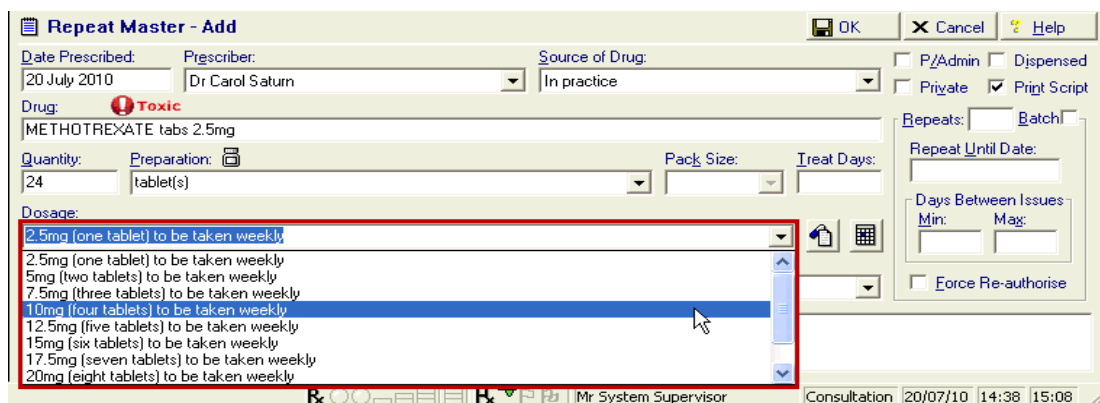
Overview

We have found a potential Clinical safety issue with Methotrexate which will affect **ALL** sites.

We know there are some drugs for which it is necessary to limit the choice of dosage to a pre-defined set. Methotrexate is one of these drugs. When prescribing Methotrexate the dosage field is replaced by a drop-down list of possible dosages, thereby limiting the available choices. The Clinical safety issue arises if the dosage is entered manually.

How to correctly prescribe Methotrexate

Type Methotrexate in the drug field then press enter and answer the displayed caution/s, eg. Methotrexate tabs 2.5 mg. When the drug is selected the dosage field becomes a drop-down list. The dosage displayed initially is the first in the drop-down list, click the **drop-down**  **arrow** and select the appropriate dosage from the **drop down list**, do not edit the dosage. Complete the prescription and print if required.



Repeat Master - Add

Date Prescribed: 20 July 2010 Prescriber: Dr Carol Saturn Source of Drug: In practice



Drug: METHOTREXATE tabs 2.5mg

Quantity: 24 Preparation: tablet(s) Pack Size: Treat Days:

Dosage:

- 2.5mg (one tablet) to be taken weekly
- 2.5mg (one tablet) to be taken weekly
- 5mg (two tablets) to be taken weekly
- 7.5mg (three tablets) to be taken weekly
- 10mg (four tablets) to be taken weekly**
- 12.5mg (five tablets) to be taken weekly
- 15mg (six tablets) to be taken weekly
- 17.5mg (seven tablets) to be taken weekly
- 20mg (eight tablets) to be taken weekly

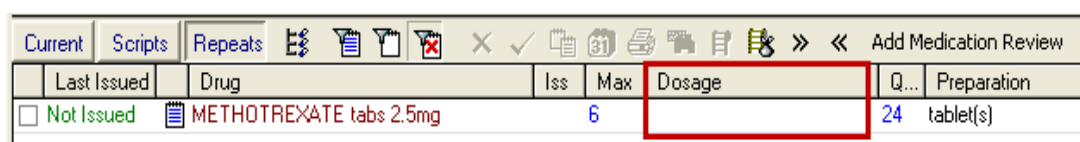
The repeat master details and dosage will be shown in full in Consultation Manager.

Current	Scripts	Repeats	Iss	Max	Dosage	Q...	Preparation
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Issued				6	10mg (four tablets) to be taken weekly	24	tablet(s)

Clinical Safety Issue

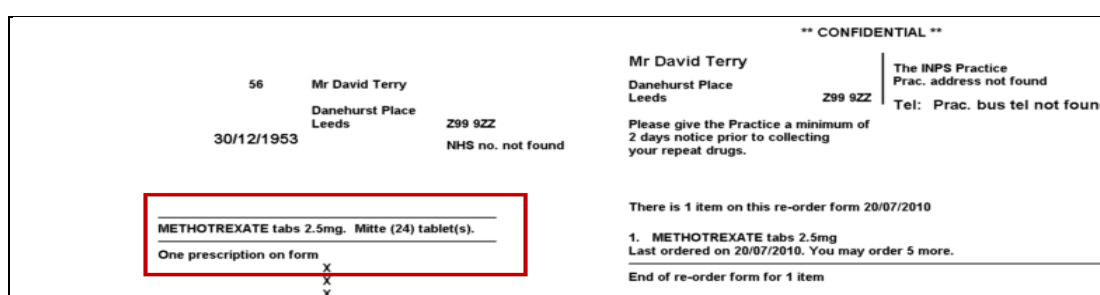
When prescribing Methotrexate, if the dosage is MANUALLY changed ie. you type the dosage details in the dosage field rather than selecting from the drop down list, the dosage details will be missing in the printed prescription and also when displayed in Consultation Manager.

IMPORTANT – This will apply even if you type the details exactly as they appear in the drop-down list.



Last Issued	Drug	Iss	Max	Dosage	Q...	Preparation
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Issued	METHOTREXATE tabs 2.5mg		6		24	tablet(s)

Consultation Manager Therapy – No dosage displayed



56 Mr David Terry
Danehurst Place
Leeds Z99 9ZZ
30/12/1953 NHS no. not found

Mr David Terry
Danehurst Place
Leeds Z99 9ZZ
Please give the Practice a minimum of 2 days notice prior to collecting your repeat drugs.

The INPS Practice
Prac. address not found
Tel: Prac. bus tel not found

There is 1 item on this re-order form 20/07/2010

1. METHOTREXATE tabs 2.5mg
Last ordered on 20/07/2010. You may order 5 more.

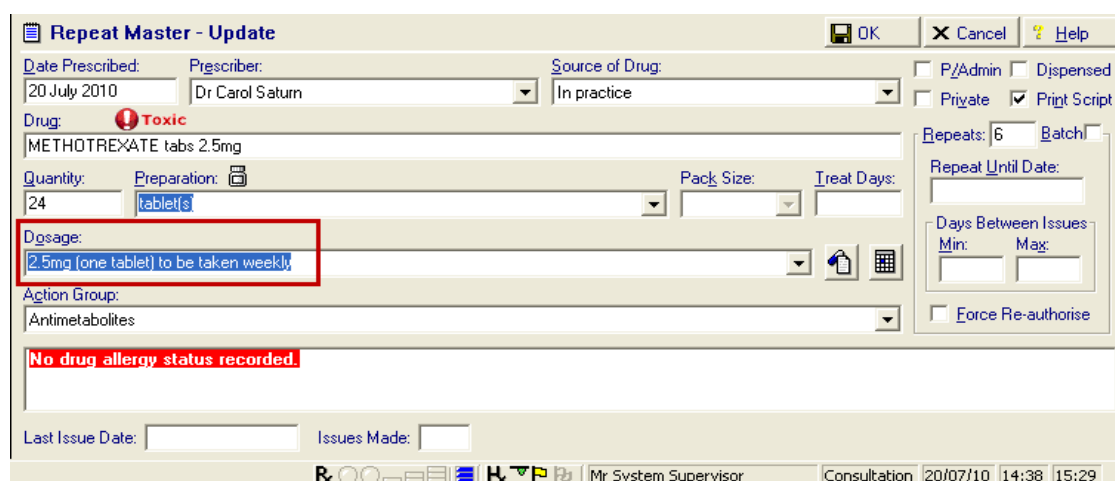
End of re-order form for 1 item

METHOTREXATE tabs 2.5mg. Mitte (24) tablet(s).

One prescription on form
X
X

Repeat Prescription – No dosage displayed

If you edit the prescription the dosage will change to the default dosage ie. the first dosage in the drop-down list. In this example the dosage has changed to **2.5mg (one tablet) to be taken weekly**, when in fact we typed in manually **10mg (four tablets) to be taken weekly**.



Repeat Master - Update

Date Prescribed: 20 July 2010 Prescriber: Dr Carol Saturn Source of Drug: In practice

Drug: METHOTREXATE tabs 2.5mg

Quantity: 24 Preparation: tablet(s) Pack Size: Treat Days:

Dosage: 2.5mg (one tablet) to be taken weekly

Action Group: Antimetabolites

No drug allergy status recorded.

Last Issue Date: Issues Made:

Mr System Supervisor Consultation 20/07/10 14:38 15:29

Repeat Master Edit – default dosage displayed

This could cause clinical problems as the pharmacist will not know what to tell the patient or if edited then the lowest dose will be selected.

It is therefore, **IMPORTANT** to always select the dosage from the drop-down list to avoid potential safety issues when prescribing this drug.