This information was up to date at the time of release to the Heads of Midwifery.
The editorial board does not accept liability for any errors or omissions following its subsequent publication.
Updating arrangements for the formulary should be decided upon and implemented at a local level.

YOU MUST BE AUTHORISED BY NAME, UNDER THE CURRENT VERSION OF THIS PGD BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO WORK ACCORDING TO IT

Folic Acid 5mg (PGD)

Legal status (GSL, P or POM on exemption list, or PGD)	▪ POM - Midwife may supply/administer in accordance with a PGD.
Clinical indication:	Pregnant women at increased risk of conceiving a child with neural tube defects.
Inclusion criteria(Patient Group):	Prevention of neural tube defects in women known to be at increased risk. ▪ couples are at a high risk of conceiving a child with a neural tube defect if either partner has a neural tube defect (or either partner has a family history of neural tube defects), if they have had a previous pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect, or if the woman has coeliac disease (or other malabsorption state), diabetes mellitus, sickle-cell anaemia, or is taking antiepileptic medicines, and should take the higher dose of 5mg folic acid ▪ women with a bmi ≥30 require 5mg folic acid
Exclusion criteria:	▪ known hypersensitivity to any component of the medicine ▪ folate dependent tumours ▪ malignant disease ▪ persistent hyperemesis ▪ women with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the lapp lactase deficiency or glucosr- galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine
Cautions/Need for further advice/Circumstances when further advice should be sought from the doctor:	▪ pernicious anaemia or vitamin B12 deficiency states unless administered with vitamin B12 as this may lead to sub-acute combined degeneration of the spinal cord ▪ check for and document any allergies ▪ check and document past medical and drug history and current medication to ascertain potential for overdose ▪ if a caution applies consult with a doctor ▪ document consultation in maternity record
Potential adverse reactions:	*Adverse medicine reactions rarely occur. Those reported are:* ▪ *allergic reactions* ▪ *mild gastro-intestinal upset* ▪ *on labour* Nil ▪ *on the neonate* Nil ▪ *on breast feeding* Nil ▪ *if a serious adverse reaction is suspected please report to the MHRA Yellow Card Scheme* http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/

Folic Acid 5mg (PGD)	
Action if patient declines or is excluded:	▪ refer to authorised prescriber or doctor ▪ document in maternity record
Referral arrangements for further advice/cautions:	In accordance with local guidelines.
Medicine Details	
Pharmacology	Administration of folic acid pre conception and during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy has been shown to decrease the incidence of neural tube defects which occur when fetal neural tube fails to fuse, normally during the first 4 weeks of pregnancy. There appear to be environmental and genetic factors involved but it is not fully understood.
Name, form & strength of medicine:	Tablets contain folic acid 5mg
Route/Method of administration:	For oral administration. Keep a record of supply or administration in accordance with local guidelines.
Dosage (include maximum dose if appropriate):	One tablet daily until 12 + 6 weeks of pregnancy (women with established folate deficiency or sickle-cell disease should continue taking their normal dose of folic acid 5 mg daily (or to increase the dose to 5 mg daily) and continue this throughout pregnancy).
Frequency:	One tablet daily.
Duration of treatment:	Until 12 + 6 weeks of pregnancy. (Women with established folate deficiency or sickle-cell disease should continue taking their normal dose of folic acid 5 mg daily (or to increase the dose to 5 mg daily) and continue this throughout pregnancy).
Maximum or minimum treatment period:	See above.
Quantity to supply/administer:	1 original pack.
▼Black Triangle Medicine:*	No
Is the use outwith the SPC:**	No
Storage requirements and product details	Store in a cool dry place protected from light and below 25ºC
*The black triangle symbol (▼) identifies newly licensed medicines that are monitored intensively by the MHRA/CSM ** Summary of Product Characteristics	

Folic Acid 5mg (PGD)	
Warnings including possible adverse reactions and management of these:	-
Medicine interactions and action that will be taken if a patient is taking a medicine that may interact	▪ may reduce plasma levels of anticonvulsants, particularly phenytoin, phenobarbital and primidone ▪ chloramphenicol and co-trimoxazole may interfere with folate metabolism ▪ sulfasalazine – can reduce the absorption of folic acid ▪ if there is a clinically significant drug interaction, consult with a doctor before administration or supply ▪ document consultation in maternity record ▪ refer to current BNF for latest information on interactions
Overdose:	▪ no special procedure or antidote needed - symptoms not reported ▪ immediate assessment/treatment is essential - refer to medical staff ▪ manage in accordance with established treatment guidelines or see BNF overdose section ▪ for further advice contact National Poisons Centre 0344 892 0111
Advice to patient/carer including written information provided:	▪ give the manufacturer's patient information leaflet to the woman
Monitoring (if applicable):	-
Follow up:	-

References

1. Summary of Product Characteristics Folic acid 5mg tablets (Accord UK) text revision 17.6.2019 http://www.medicines.org.uk Accessed 16.12.2019

2. http://www.bnf.org