



## Article

# Prescribing for patients at the end of life

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### Question 1

- (i)  $65\,000\,000 / 500 = 130,000$  people
- (ii) 1,205 rounded up

### Question 2

- (i) 0.89 rounded up
- (ii) venous
- (iii) 78,000 26,000 26,000

### Question 3

Bacteria will always be present in leg ulcers and routine prescribing of antibiotics does **NOT** improve healing. Culture swabs and antibiotics are only indicated if there is evidence of clinical infection such as inflammation/redness/cellulitis/increased pain/ purulent exudate/rapid deterioration of ulcer or pyrexia.

John is a 45 year-old joiner, has had a venous leg ulcer for approximately 9 weeks, he frequently doesn't comply with his treatment plan and has developed cellulitis. In line with NICE (2015) guidance, he is prescribed Flucloxacillin 500mg four times daily for 7 days.

- (i)  $7 \times 4 = 28$  tablets
- (ii)  $7 \times 500\text{mg} = 3500 \text{ mg} = 3.5 \text{ g}$  grams.
- (iii)  $500\text{mg twice per day} = 1 \text{ gram per day} \times 7 \text{ days} = 7 \text{ grams in total.}$
- (iv) Flucloxacillin £14.00

Table 2

Drug	Dose	Duration of treatment	Cost
Flucloxacillin	500 mg four times daily	7 days	500mg capsule £7.50 x 28 capsules
Clarithromycin	500 mg twice daily	7 days	500mg tablet £21.50 x 14 tablets

### Question 4

- (i)  $30 \text{ g per day} \times 7 \text{ days} = 210 \text{ grams per week}$   
 $210 \text{ g per week} \times 8 \text{ weeks} = 1680 \text{ grams in total needed}$   
Therefore  $4 \times 500 \text{ gram tubs at a cost of } 6 \times £6.32 = £25.28$
- (ii)  $30\text{g of diprobase per day} = 210\text{g} + 100\text{mls of eucerin over 7 days total } 310\text{grams.}$

### Question 5

$9 \times 64 \text{ mg} = 576 \text{ mg of codeine}$  and  $9 \times 4000\text{mg of paracetamol} = 36\,000$ .  $576 / 36\,000$  in mg or 36 grams. Advise to buy over the counter.

Question 6

Minimum review of once per year, Arthur will live for 8 years and two months so a minimum of 8 more appointments will be needed.