NHS
Suffolk and
North East Essex
Integrated Care Board

Famotidine Step Down

Famotidine 40mg tablets should only be used for the treatment phase of benign gastric and duodenal ulceration and reflux oesophagitis. Once the treatment stage has been completed patients would usually be stepped down to maintenance doses:

- Duodenal ulceration – 20mg once daily, dose to be taken at night
- Reflux oesophagitis – 20mg twice daily

Famotidine | Drugs | BNF | NICE

Reviewing of patients prescribed Famotidine 40mg tablets also provides a significant cost saving of approximately £97 (once daily) or £194 (twice daily) annually for each patient stepped down.

The following search has been created to identify patients currently prescribed famotidine 40mg tablets:

- Famotidine 40mg for practice review to stepdown

Safety Reminder – Renal Impairment

If the creatinine clearance is less than 30 mL/minute, then reduce the dose by half.

Dialysis patients should also take dosages that are reduced by half. Famotidine 20 mg tablets should be administered at the end of dialysis or thereafter since some of the active ingredient is removed by dialysis.

If the creatinine clearance falls to below 10ml/minute, then a single 20mg dose at night should be considered.