Clopixol Acuphase® is licensed for “the initial treatment of acute psychoses including mania and exacerbation of chronic psychoses, particularly where a duration of effect of 2-3 days is desirable”. It should never be considered a first line drug for rapid tranquillisation unless there is an advanced directive in place; it should only be used after an acutely psychotic patient has required repeated injections of short-acting antipsychotics such as haloperidol, and/or sedative drugs such as lorazepam, and these have been judged ineffective (allow at least 60 minutes after each IM injection to assess response).

Dose & administration:
- **50 mg (1 ml) to 150 mg (3 ml)**, adjusted to the severity of the patient’s illness; the maximum dose for an elderly patient is 100 mg (2 ml).
- Given by deep intramuscular injection into the upper outer buttock or lateral thigh
- Repeat if necessary after 2 - 3 days; some patients may need an additional injection 1 - 2 days after the first one – there should be an interval of at least 24 hours between doses.
- **For all patients the cumulative dose must not exceed 400 mg (or 4 injections), within a 2-week period.**

Monitoring:
The patient must be carefully monitored after each injection; using the Trust *Early Warning Score (EWS)* chart.
Physical health parameters should normally be monitored at the following frequency:
- 15 minutes after injection, then:
- 30 minutes after injection, then:
- 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12 hours after injection, then:
- every 6 hours for a further 36 hours
  i.e. for a minimum total of 48 hours after the last injection

Onset & duration of action:
- Sedative effects usually begin to appear within 2 hours of injection & may not reach a peak for a further 24 - 36 hours.
- Significant effects may last for up to 72 hours although full elimination of the drug may not be complete for 7 days.
- Caution must be applied if consideration is being given to the administration of a short-acting psychotropic IM injection during treatment with Acuphase®, as excessive sedation and/or aggravated adverse events may occur if the patient is exposed to high plasma levels of multiple drugs.

**Clopixol Acuphase® should not be viewed as a course of treatment – each dose should be prescribed as a “once only medication” on the inpatient chart; the patient should be carefully reviewed by a consultant before each dose is prescribed / administered.**

References:
- Summary of Product Characteristics – Clopixol Acuphase®. Lundbeck Ltd, last updated January 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Guidelines for the use of Clopixol Acuphase® (zuclopenthixol acetate 50 mg in 1 ml injection)</th>
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<td>Drug &amp; Therapeutics Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protocol Number</td>
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