



Nottingham and
Nottinghamshire

Area Prescribing Committee / Interface Update March 2024

Please direct queries to your ICB Medicines
Optimisation Pharmacist

or e-mail nnicb-nn.nottsapc@nhs.net

New Submissions

Drospirenone (Slynd®) – AMBER 3

Indication: 2nd line Progestogen Only Pill (POP) for women in whom desogestrel is not suitable after a trial of 6 months and where other methods of contraception including long-acting reversible methods are contraindicated, have been declined or are not suited.

- It provides 24 hour missed-pill window, compared to 12 hours with desogestrel or 3 hours with levonorgestrel.
- As an aldosterone antagonist with anti-mineralocorticoid activity, it is not suitable for individuals at risk of developing hyperkalaemia, including patients taking potassium-sparing diuretics and potassium supplements. Some patients may require baseline renal function tests and blood pressure check.
- An [information sheet](#) has been produced to support Primary Care initiation and ongoing prescribing.

Ticagrelor – AMBER 2

Indication: for the secondary prevention of ischaemic stroke following Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) or minor stroke in those with confirmed or suspected clopidogrel resistance or clopidogrel allergy. This is an off-label indication which is in line with [National Clinical Guideline for Stroke](#).

- For this indication ticagrelor is usually continued long-term after an initial one month of dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) - discharge communication should specify dose and duration of treatment. This dosing schedule is different from cardiac indications.

Shared Care Protocols

[Dermatology Shared Care Protocols](#) (update)

- The standardised national templates (RMOC) have been cross-referenced against the existing APC overarching dermatology shared care protocols and the individual information sheets for azathioprine and hydroxychloroquine.
- This has been undertaken in collaboration with consultants at NUH and SFH. There have been no changes to the overall process, but RMOC contraindications, cautions and parameters have been adopted.
- The hydroxychloroquine SCP dose calculation is now based on actual body weight (ABW) rather than ideal body weight (IBW). This reflects the national Royal College of Ophthalmology guidance and our local rheumatology hydroxychloroquine SCP.
 - [Dermatological Conditions: Azathioprine Shared Care Protocol](#)
 - [Dermatological Conditions: Hydroxychloroquine Shared Care Protocol](#)
- The methotrexate SCP review has yet to be ratified, so the existing overarching SCP and information sheet will remain available on the APC website until then.

Shared Care Protocols

[ADHD Children and Young People Shared Care Protocols](#) (update)

- There are no standardised national templates (RMOC) for ADHD in children and young people, RMOC published the adult ADHD SCP templates in July 2022.
- The local adult SCPs (based on national RMOC templates) were cross-referenced against the existing local protocols for children and young people on methylphenidate, dexamfetamine, lisdexamfetamine and atomoxetine. The adult SCP format has been adopted with some amendments to reflect differences between adults and children/young people patient groups.
- There are no updates on recommendations from the NICE ADHD guidance (Sep 2019).
- All four medicines are licensed in children from 6 years onwards and the SCPs are appropriate for patients **6 years and over only**. NICE recommends treatment from 5 years which is **unlicensed**.
- Patients 18 years and over are covered by the adult SCPs.
- Transfer of care to Primary Care will be after at least 4 weeks as per current practice.
- Link to APC approved [Patient Information Leaflets](#) added.

Guidelines

[Finerenone Prescribing Guidance](#) (new)

- This guidance has been produced in response to the NICE TA877: Finerenone for treating chronic kidney disease (CKD) in type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).
- Finerenone is indicated for management of CKD stage 3 and 4 with albuminuria in patients with T2DM.
- Due to limited experience of this medication, it was requested that a Primary Care guidance document was produced to support the change to an **AMBER 3** classification.
- The guidance has been produced by the Midlands Kidney Network (MKN) and adapted for local use.
- The guidance includes prescribing and monitoring information for patients with an eGFR between 25-60 ml/min/1.73m².

[Adult Headache Pathway](#) (updated)

- This guideline has been updated to include rimegepant to signify its place in the management of migraine. No other changes have been made, although the document has been reformatted for ease of use.
- Rimegepant is recommended by NICE TA906 for migraine prophylaxis and NICE TA919 for treatment of acute migraine episodes.
- Due to limited experience rimegepant has been locally classed as **AMBER 2** for both indications.
- When used for migraine prophylaxis, following 12 weeks treatment period and a specialist review, the patients' care may be transferred to Primary Care.
- When indicated for treatment of acute migraine, rimegepant can only be initiated following a specialist recommendation.

Antimicrobial Guidelines

Conjunctivitis (update)

- Information has been added about management of viral and bacterial forms of conjunctivitis, to highlight usually no need for antibiotics in viral infections.
- The UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) state that exclusion from school, nursery, and childminders is **NOT** normally recommended for either viral and bacterial infections.
- There has been no change to the treatment options, but information added that chloramphenicol can be purchased OTC for children and adults ≥ 2 years of age.
- Patient self-care information and patient information leaflets have been added.

Human and Animal Bites (update)

- No changes have been made to the treatment choices. A link to the NHS patient information leaflet was added.

Management of non-infected wounds

Type of bite	Bite has not broken the skin	Bite has broken the skin but not drawn blood	Bite has broken the skin and drawn blood
Human bite	Do not offer antibiotics	Consider antibiotics if it is in a high-risk area or person at high risk.	Offer antibiotics
Cat bite	Do not offer antibiotics	Consider antibiotics if the wound could be deep.	Offer antibiotics
Dog or other traditional pet bite	Do not offer antibiotics	Do not offer antibiotics	Offer antibiotics if it has caused considerable, deep tissue damage or is visibly contaminated. Consider antibiotics if bite is in a high-risk area or person at high risk.

Miscellaneous

APC Contenance Formulary (update)

- Order of products in the formulary had been changed for ease of use.
- Sections added for body-worn urinals or pouches, sheath fixing strips and adhesives, adhesive remover, lubricant gel (for regular bowel care or insertion of non-lubricated catheters only).
- Updated indwelling catheter section to add short term catheters and foam/Velcro sheath straps.
- Updated guidelines section – added guidance sections for body-worn urinals, retracted penis pouch, sheath fixing strips & adhesives.

Insulin section – Joint Formulary (update)

- Formulary status of some insulins has been reviewed to allow initiation and support initiation in Primary Care.
- More detail about individual insulin preparations such as durations of action and available devices has been added to the entries and the current layout of the sections has been amended to highlight the differences between insulin types.
- The following traffic light reclassifications have been approved:
 - Actrapid[®] - change from **GREEN** to **AMBER 2** due to Actrapid[®] use in some conditions being managed in hospital settings.
 - Humalog[®] Mix (25 and 50) and Novomix[®] 30 - change from **AMBER 2** to **AMBER 3**.

Miscellaneous

[Unlicensed Specials Database](#) (update)

- Following the 6-monthly update schedule, the database has been reviewed to include suitable alternatives for prescribing of unlicensed specials.

[Strong Opioid Patient Information Leaflet](#) (update)

- This leaflet was originally produced to support the national focus on reducing opioid prescribing.
- This leaflet is intended for use by Primary and Secondary Care teams across Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw.
- It includes information to help patients understand why they have been prescribed an opioid and that they are a short-term option for acute pain.
- It provides information on distraction techniques and contact numbers for patients.

[Treatment options for diabetic hypoglycaemia in children and adults: Position statement](#) (new)

- This new document was produced to support and encourage prescribers to offer advice on using suitable food products to treat diabetic hypoglycaemia, as an alternative option to prescribed glucose products.

Traffic light changes

- **Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®)** - **AMBER 2** for type 2 diabetes (T2DM) as per NICE TA 924. Dual GLP-1 and GIP (glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide) receptor agonist with same place in therapy as GLP-1RA for treating T2DM. The diabetes guideline has been updated to include tirzepatide.
- **Exenatide (Byetta®)** has been reclassified as **GREY** due to discontinuation in March 2024. No new patients are to be initiated and current patients are to be reviewed and switched to Rybelsus® where appropriate.
- **Alogliptin** has been reclassified as **GREY** for new patients as it does not provide any advantage over other gliptins. Sitagliptin is now the most cost-effective choice due to a significant price decrease.
- **Empagliflozin (Jardiance®)** - **AMBER 3** for chronic kidney disease (CKD) as per NICE TA 942. It has a wider eligibility criteria for CKD than dapagliflozin. The SGLT-2 prescribing pathway is currently being updated to include empagliflozin. In the meantime, please follow NICE TA 942 for guidance.
- **Riluzole orodispersible film (Emylif®)** - **AMBER 1**. For use in exceptional circumstances when following a multidisciplinary team (MDT) recommendation as per shared care protocol.
- **Travoprost PF (Visutrax®)** - added as **AMBER 2** to the formulary as a second-line preservative-free option for those unable to tolerate latanoprost preservative-free.
- **Lecicarbon® C** has been reclassified back to **GREY**, after temporary GREEN classification for use during supply problems with bisacodyl suppositories. The supply problems have now been resolved.

Formulary amendments

- **Hydrocortisone 10mg/5ml oral solution:** has been classified **GREY** in line with recommendations on preferred strengths given by The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. A licensed product is available as **hydrocortisone 5mg/5ml oral solution** and this is now recommended in The Joint Formulary (an unlicensed preparation was previously listed).
- **Aripiprazole:** the formulary entry has been simplified to reflect the use of aripiprazole for Bipolar II Disorder, which is an off-label indication but supported by [NICE CG185](#).
- **Spironolactone:** some patients are initiated on 12.5mg and usually up titrated. The formulary has been updated to advise that patients be prescribed 25mg tablets and advised to halve them.
- **Cyclogest pessaries:** in line with [NICE NG126](#) Cyclogest has been approved with ABMER 2 classification for threatened miscarriage. It can be prescribed for women with an intrauterine pregnancy confirmed by ultrasound scan, if they have vaginal bleeding **and** have previously had a miscarriage. Vaginal micronised progesterone 400mg is given twice daily until 16 weeks' gestation and the first 4 weeks of treatment should be issued by secondary care.

Horizon Scanning

GREY

- Omeprazole 10mg/15ml and 20mg/15ml single unit doses, require assembly before administration.
- Levomepromazine 6.25mg tablets - continue to use 25mg tablets.

GREY – no formal assessment:

- Freestyle Libre 3 - this is a new CGM system and not interchangeable with the current Freestyle Libre 2.

Area Prescribing Committee Work Plan

Guidelines going to next APC meeting:

- Update to the Prescribing Policy
- Update to Shared Care Protocol for Azathioprine for IBD in young people > 12 years
- Update to Riluzole Shared Care Protocol
- Update to Shared Care Protocol for Methotrexate in Dermatology
- Update to antimicrobial prescribing guideline on Acute Exacerbation of COPD
- Update to antimicrobial prescribing guideline on Bronchiectasis
- Update to vitamin D prescribing guidelines in adults and children
- Update to PIL on vitamin D

Further Information

- [Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee Website](#)
- [Nottinghamshire Joint Formulary Website](#)
- [Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee Bulletins](#)
- [Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee Meeting Minutes](#)
- [ICB Preferred Prescribing List](#)
- [Guide to setting up SystemOne formulary in GP practices](#)
- Report non-formulary requests from secondary care via eHealthscope (no patient details)
<https://ehsweb.notts.nhs.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=223>



**Please direct queries to your ICB medicines optimisation pharmacist
or e-mail nnicb-nn.nottsapc@nhs.net**