

Area Prescribing Committee Bulletin

July 2024



1 - [Link to APC website](#)



2 - [Link to APC Joint Formulary](#)

New Formulary Submissions

Alverine 60mg/ simeticone 300mg capsules (SimAlvia®) - AMBER 2

Temporary classification: will be revised on development of local IBS guidelines.

Indication: Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

This combination product is second line for symptomatic relief of abdominal pain / discomfort in patients with IBS, where symptoms have not responded to initial therapy with mebeverine, peppermint oil capsules or hyoscine butyl bromide.

Dose: One capsule to be taken twice or three times a day when required alongside dietary and lifestyle interventions.

It must only be prescribed as a combination product. Alverine is available to purchase from pharmacies and simeticone can be bought over the counter.

News from the APC - updated & new documents

Guidelines:

Antimicrobials:

- [Scabies](#) (update). Inclusion of oral ivermectin 3mg tablets.
- [MRSA Infection Control and Empirical Treatment](#) (update). Change to first-line decolonisation treatments.
- [Acne](#) (update).
- [Dermatophyte Infection of the Scalp](#) (update).
- [Eczema - suspected bacterial infection](#) (update).
- [Herpes Simplex Virus](#) (update).

Other:

- [COPD Guideline](#) (update).
- [Headache in Adults Pathway](#) (update).
- [Anticoagulants in AF Guideline](#) (update).
- [Palliative Care in End Stage Heart Failure Pocketbook](#) (update).
- [Hypertriglyceridaemia Guideline](#) (update).
- **Fludrocortisone for Orthostatic Hypotension Information Sheet** (update).
- [Antipsychotics Prescribing Guide](#) (update).
- [Bupropion Information Sheet](#) (NEW) for severe depression.
- [Take Home Naloxone Information Sheet](#) (NEW).
- **Clozapine Information Sheet** (update).
- **Parkinson's Disease (PD) Information Sheets** (update): [Ropinirole](#), [Rotigotine](#) and Pramipexole.

For further information and a full explanation of changes please see the [latest APC update](#) or watch our [latest webinar](#).

Miscellaneous:

Retired Information Sheets:

- **Cabergoline Information Sheet:** reclassified as **GREY** for new Parkinson's Disease initiation.
- **Prucalopride (for treatment of constipation) Information Sheet:** restrictions on [NICE TA211](#) apply to both men and women.

For further information and a full explanation of changes please see the [latest APC update](#) or watch our [latest webinar](#).

Horizon scanning, formulary amendments and traffic light changes

AMBER 2 and 3:

- **Pancrex V® capsules** temporarily reclassified as **AMBER 2** to support the management of patients during significant supply problems with PERT . The formulary entry will be reviewed once the supply issues are resolved.
- **RespoSorb® Silicone border (AMBER 2)**, included in the CityCare formulary - available via NHS Supplies for community nursing teams.
- **Atogepant for migraine prevention in adults (AMBER 2)** oral treatment option approved as per NICE TA973.
- **Octenisan® mitts and shower caps** changed from **GREEN** to **AMBER 2**.
- **Oral ivermectin 3mg tablets** changed from **RED** to **AMBER 2** for the treatment of scabies.
- **Bupropion** for severe depression classified as **AMBER 2** (off-label indication).
- **Ondansetron** reclassified as **AMBER 2** to for the management of diarrhoea in patients with diarrhoea predominant IBS.
- **Trixeo® Aerosphere pMDI** (formoterol, glycopyrronium, budesonide) classified as **AMBER 3 for COPD**. An additional option alongside other triple inhalers. Does not require cold storage and is alcohol free.

GREEN:

- **ADACEL® (Tdap)**, a non-IPV-containing vaccine has replaced Boostrix-IPV® for vaccination of pregnant women against pertussis.
- **Prontoderm® foam** - changed from **AMBER 2** to **GREEN**.

GREY:

- **Evana**[®] (tranexamic acid) 500 mg tablets - available for over-the-counter sale from a Pharmacy.
- **Ultravana**[®] 250mg (naproxen) tablets - available for over-the-counter sale from a Pharmacy.
- **Fludrocortisone acetate 0.05mg tablets (50microgram)** - 100mcg tablets are more cost-effective and can be halved as per their product licence.
- **Aqumeldi**[®] (enalapril) 0.25 mg orodispersible tablets - treatment of heart failure in children aged from birth to <18 years.
- **Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine Split Virion**[®] Inactivated High-Dose suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe.

FORMULARY AMENDMENTS:

- **Zetuvit**[®] dressing has undergone a name change, it is now called **Zetuvit Plus Superabsorber**[®]. District Nursing (DN) Teams and Tissue Viability leads are aware.
- **Freestyle Libre 2 Plus**[®] and **Dexcom One**[®] + have launched updated products. The original versions will continue to be available for approximately 12 months.
- **Prostaglandin analogue preservative-free (PF) eye drop section.** Brands previously recommended as PF preparations are price equivalent to the generic. The previous recommendation to use brand names has changed to generic prescribing.
- **Tirzepatide (Mounjaro**[®]) - dose escalation beyond 5mg should be done only on Specialist advice after a review. 5mg weekly is expected to be a sufficient maintenance dose for glucose control in the majority of individuals. *Nb.* currently approved locally only in line with [NICE TA924](#) for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes.
- **Opicapone** is no longer restricted to second line use.

Publications



3 - [Link to APC webinars](#)

APC Webinars: You can find our [July 2024 APC presentation](#) on the APC website and the recording is available to view on our [Notts ICB YouTube channel](#).



4 - [Link to APC podcasts](#)

Our Podcasts:

In our latest episode, we discuss Pharmacogenomics with our guests Paul Selby and Emma Grace - [PILS ep 12, July 2024, Pharmacogenomics](#).

Feature of the month: PERT Shortages

A National Patient Safety Alert was issued in May 24 as there are ongoing limited supplies of pancreatic enzyme replacement therapies (PERT).

There is information to support prescribers on the Joint [Formulary](#). This includes a conversion table for the different brands and preparations, the [national position statement from the PSBGI](#), and a guidance [document](#) for Primary Care.

[Viatris \(Creon®\)](#) have set up a dedicated customer helpline **0800 8086410** which should be used by prescribers, community and hospital pharmacies and patients to find the most up to date information on the supply of Creon®.

Community pharmacy should **NOT** direct patients to the hospital pharmacy for the fulfilment of a prescription. Patients should be referred back to their GP practice for a review and consideration of alternative options.

Let us know what you think!

The work of the Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee is supported and managed by the interface team.

We can be contacted via email on nnicb-nn.nottsapc@nhs.net

www.nottsapc.nhs.uk

www.nottinghamshireformulary.nhs.uk