

Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 01 November 2024 **Quorate:** Yes

The items in this report are supported by the area prescribing group and approval by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) is detailed below.

Document links provided for any APG recommendations are temporarily hosted on the legacy Pan Mersey APC website as a pragmatic solution until such time as a Cheshire and Merseyside APG website is available. The [legacy Cheshire formulary](#) will also be updated to reflect these changes.

CMAPG governance documents are now hosted on the new [Prescribing](#) section of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website, which is currently being developed

New medicines NICE TAs

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p>Latanoprost–netarsudil for previously treated primary open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension</p> <p>RAG designation: Amber recommended</p> <p>APG subgroup: 11 Oct 2024</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Date of NICE TA publication: 02 Oct 2024</p> <p>Approval for implementation: 90 days</p> <p>Deadline for implementation: 31 Dec 2024</p> <p>Amber recommended statement in line with NICE TA1009.</p> <p>Latanoprost–netarsudil is a fixed-dose combination treatment with a new mode of action; it contains a prostaglandin analogue with a Rho kinase inhibitor. This is a step-up treatment and will be used for patients who have tried a fixed-dose combination treatment and it has not reduced intraocular pressure enough, or</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p> <p>ICS Chief Pharmacist: 21 November 2024, approved by ICS Chief Pharmacist</p>

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	<p>where a fixed-dose combination treatment containing beta-blockers is unsuitable.</p> <p>Based on assumptions within the NICE resource impact template for TA1009, the estimated cost of implementing this guidance in Cheshire and Merseyside is £10,000 in 2025-26, £19,000 in 2026-27, £30,000 in 2027-28, £39,000 in 2028-29 and £51,000 in 2029-30 when it is assumed that steady state is reached. This is based on drug cost alone.</p>	

New medicines other

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p>NICE-approved anti-VEGF drugs and intravitreal corticosteroids used in Ophthalmic Medical Retinal conditions</p> <p>RAG designation: Red</p> <p>APG subgroup: 11 Oct 2024</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>For noting.</p> <p>Minor update to include NICE TA1004: Faricimab for treating visual impairment caused by macular oedema after retinal vein occlusion, which was approved by the ICB MOP group in October 2024. The macular oedema section has also been re-ordered for clarity due to differences in licensing.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>
<p>Dupilumab for treating COPD</p>	<p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>
<p>Relugolix–estradiol–norethisterone for treating symptoms of endometriosis</p>	<p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

Formulary and guidelines

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p>Shampoo Products for treatment of seborrhoeic dermatitis.</p> <p>RAG designation: Green</p> <p>APG subgroup: 15 Oct 2024</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Change of shampoo products in the formulary to the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ketoconazole 2% 120ml (includes Nizoral®, Dandrazol®) - Capasal® Therapeutic shampoo 250ml, - Coal tar extract 2% shampoo (includes Neutrogena T/Gel® 125ml,250ml, Psoriderm® 250ml) - Coal tar 4% shampoo (includes Polytar® scalp shampoo) <p>This is due to discontinued shampoo products Selsun®, Alphosyl 2 in 1®, Ceanel Concentrate®, with the formulary to be updated to contain other products that can be currently prescribed and that are available.</p> <p>Use for mild, non-inflammatory cases (normally termed dandruff) may be considered as suitable for OTC purchase.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>
<p>Addition of Meflynate® (methylphenidate m/r brand) to formulary in Cheshire.</p> <p>RAG designation: Purple.</p> <p>APG subgroup: 15 Oct 2024</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Shared Care Agreements currently in use in Cheshire stipulate brands as per the legacy formulary. The legacy Merseyside Shared Care Agreement documents and formulary do not specify brands but do note methylphenidate should be brand-prescribed. As an interim measure to ensure availability of Meflynate® in Cheshire it is proposed it is added to the legacy Cheshire formulary to support ongoing shared care arrangements still in place in Cheshire, pending formulary harmonisation of this section.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p>Nephrotrans® (sodium bicarbonate) for metabolic acidosis in patients with chronic renal impairment</p> <p>Amber Retained</p> <p>APG subgroup: 15 Oct 2024</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>An option for metabolic acidosis in patients with chronic renal impairment who do not tolerate the gastrointestinal adverse effects of standard sodium bicarbonate products.</p> <p>Nephrotrans® costs £52.50 for 28 days treatment compared to £20.60 for 28 days treatment with standard release sodium bicarbonate. Fewer than 100 patients who would be eligible for Nephrotrans® have been identified in secondary care across the Cheshire & Mersey region. This equates to an additional cost of up to £41,000 in Cheshire and Merseyside. The costs of intervention if CKD progresses are e.g. hospital-based dialysis £35,000 per year, transplant £17,000 then £5,000 in every subsequent year. Therefore, some additional cost incurred, but use may prevent more serious and costly complications associated with organ transplant as it would allow some patients to successfully remain on sodium bicarbonate where they are experiencing intolerable gastric meteorism caused by the formation of carbon dioxide gas in the acidic environment of the stomach with conventional forms.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p> <p>ICS Chief Pharmacist: 21 November 2024, approved by ICS Chief Pharmacist</p>

Antimicrobials

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p>Insect bites and stings – primary care treatment in adults.</p> <p>RAG designation: not applicable</p> <p>APG subgroup: 09 Oct 2024</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>New course length recommendation of five to seven days. This is a change from the previous recommendation of seven days.</p> <p>Brings the recommendation in line with NICE (five to seven days) and Pharmacy First (five days) and offers flexibility to prescribers based on clinical judgement of individual cases.</p> <p>NICE advises that the shortest course that is likely to be effective should be prescribed to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance and minimise the risk of side effects.</p> <p>Following the APG meeting support was also obtained from the AMR lead GP and lead pharmacist.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

APG governance

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p>APG prioritisation framework</p> <p>RAG designation: not applicable</p> <p>APG subgroup: not applicable</p> <p>APG: 01 Nov 2024</p>	<p>Provides the APG subgroups with a consistent approach to prioritising activity on their work plans. For review in six months.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

APG reports

Title	Notes	Approval
NICE TA adherence checklist September 2024	For noting.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 21 November 2024, noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.