

Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 02 May 2025 **Quorate:** Yes

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

All document links provided for any CMAPG recommendations, can be found via the [legacy Pan Mersey formulary](#). The [legacy Cheshire formulary](#) will also be updated to reflect these changes.

The legacy Pan Mersey APC website is now closed. All legacy Pan Mersey APC documents are available by using the search function of the [legacy Pan Mersey formulary](#) until harmonisation concludes.

CMAPG governance documents are hosted on the [Prescribing](#) section of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website.

Please note there may be items that have been considered by APG but not yet approved by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. Items will be reported in the month that they are approved.

New medicines other

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Clascoterone cream for acne vulgaris	For noting. A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, noted by MOP group.
Delgocitinib cream for chronic hand eczema	For noting. A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, noted by MOP group.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Linzagolix tablets for endometriosis	For noting. A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, noted by MOP group.

Formulary and guidelines

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Venlafaxine 37.5mg/5ml oral solution RAG designation: Green APG subgroup: 15 Apr 2025 APG: 02 May 2025	Addition as an alternative/option for patients who require very low doses as part of withdrawing venlafaxine treatment - only use when deprescribing venlafaxine in patients requiring doses less than 37.5mg. Oral solution is very costly, but overall cost impact is anticipated to be minimal in view of very low patient numbers and limited time using this formulation during treatment withdrawal. Tablet 37.5mg x 56 - £2.03, oral solution 37.5mg/5ml x 150ml - £186.90 NICE guideline NG222 states some commonly used antidepressants such as paroxetine and venlafaxine, are more likely to be associated with withdrawal symptoms, so particular care is needed with them	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, approved by MOP group.
Paracetamol effervescent/soluble RAG designation: Do Not Prescribe (with exceptions designated Green) APG subgroup: 15 Apr 2025 APG: 02 May 2025	RAG amendment – Paracetamol effervescent/soluble, currently designated Green, changed to Do Not Prescribe (DNP) designation. Exceptions (Green) – people who cannot swallow standard solid dosage forms and where liquid dosage forms are unsuitable due to administration difficulties and after clinical risk benefit assessment the benefits of effervescent/soluble paracetamol outweighs the risks (due to high sodium content in vulnerable cohorts).	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, approved by MOP group.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	Potential up to £200,000 annual savings if all patients transition to alternative products. This will be offset to some extent by increased use of oral liquids at greater expense than effervescent/soluble tablets, but overall saving is anticipated due to avoidance of current significant unnecessary use of effervescent/soluble tablets in patients who could swallow standard solid dose forms.	

Safety

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Domperidone – formulary update RAG designation: not applicable APG subgroup: 20 Nov 2024 APG: 04 Apr 2025	<p>The legacy Merseyside document, DOMPERIDONE: updated indications, dose and contraindications was retired with a request from the safety subgroup to retain information about use for specific patient groups in the formulary: Parkinson’s, gastroparesis, paediatrics, and end of life patients.</p> <p>The existing formulary link to the original MHRA alert is retained.</p>	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, approved by MOP group.

APG reports

Title	Notes	Approval
NICE TA adherence checklist March 2025	For noting.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 15 May 2025, noted by MOP group.