

Doncaster CCG - Medicines and Product Directory

FAQ

What is the MPD? (Medicines and Product Directory)

The Medicines and Product Directory (MPD) is a website we have developed hosting a joint online formulary and traffic light system for publishing product commissioning information so it can be viewed over the internet.

It is built on the Umbraco CMS (Content Management System) which has been customised to integrate drug data from the NHS DM&D (Dictionary of Medicines and Devices) to allow Doncaster and Bassetlaw to display its formulary and TLS indications together in a user-friendly format.

How does this differ from the Traffic Light Status and Formulary that we already use?

The current Traffic Light Status (TLS) and Formulary systems are currently split into several separate areas, the MPD aims to merge the functions together to allow prescribers to gain access to all relevant information in one place. The MPD also offers direct hyperlinks to NICE Guidance, BNF information, EMC and shared care protocols.

Where can I find it?

The MPD is found via the Medicines Management Website where Doncaster and Bassetlaw Prescribers regularly go to find prescribing information, like formulary choices and TLS status of drugs, along with current Shared Care Documents and Guidance Documents.

How do I find what I am looking for?

There are various ways to search the MPD for a Medicine or Product –

- Free typing into the search bar (although some items do not always show up in this search)
- Selecting a therapeutic section or sub-section
- Looking in the drug index

What information can I find?

The TLS and formulary status key are displayed at the bottom of every page within the MPD –

- The TLS colours remain the same as on the current Traffic Light System and are denoted by a coloured bar at the side of a Medicine or Product

- The formulary colours are gold (1st line Choice), silver (2nd line choice) and bronze (3rd line choice) or white for non-formulary items.

How can I find a document?

Documents are hyperlinked from the relevant section of the MPD, and prescribers can click onto the hyperlink and go straight to the required document

- Doncaster Local Formulary Guidance can be accessed at the top of the appropriate BNF section/ sub-section page highlighted in a pale grey banner.
- Shared Care Protocols and Guidance Documents can be seen in the BNF section/ sub-section page appropriate to the indications and drugs used in them. These are highlighted in a pale blue banner.

Is the MPD finished?

The MPD is a “living resource” and will be continuously improved. For example, the Antibiotic Section is still under development and currently you will find the hyperlink to the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Antibiotic Formulary where you will find all formulary antibiotics and prescribing information.

Will the MPD be updated regularly?

The MPD will be updated after each APC meeting where products are finalised. This will include change in TLS status or formulary choice, new shared care protocols or guidance links.

Why is there the new system, what was wrong with the old one?

The previous system was spread across several platforms, many of which could not be searched with information under different organisational structures.

How is it decided what TLS is given and whether a product goes on the formulary? Can I still prescribe something that is "non formulary" medicine?

There are strong links between the Formulary Liaison Group, the Area Prescribing Committee and the DCCG Medicines Management Group/ Bassetlaw Prescribing Leads, attendees include Primary Care Prescribers, Medicines Management staff, Secondary Care prescribers and Pharmacists, CCG Finance and Data Analysis staff, private sector providers. Between these 4 groups the TLS and formulary status is determined taking into consideration NICE guidance, MHRA guidance, where the medicine or product fits in with similar existing medicines/ products already on the formulary, who would prescribe (Primary / Secondary Care), any monitoring required and establishing any cost pressures involved.

The MPD (formulary/TLS) is there to help to choose the safest/ most cost effective/quality items, giving a 1st / 2nd / 3rd line choice. If a prescriber has tried the formulary choices but they proved not to be suitable for the patient in question, then advice should be sought from the MMT

What do all the numbers mean i.e., Grey 4, Grey 5.

There is a key on the home page of the MPD. Red Grey and Amber have several reasons for the status which are called rationale, these explain what the status means, and the reason behind the decision that was made.

How can the MPD help me in my clinical practice during my working day?

If you save the link to the website either in your favourites or as a shortcut on your desktop it will be easy to access during and after consultations, this will also help when you are actioning letters, you may get an enquiry from a specialist, and you can refer to the MPD to see what TLS status and whether it is on the formulary all in one place. The MPD can also be helpful for looking up new drugs or those you may not have prescribed before.

What do it do if I cannot find what I am looking for?

If you wish to submit a medicine or product request, enquiry or comment please contact the Medicines Management Team, and we will get back to you.

For clinical and commissioning queries to our pharmacists please email the Medicines Management Rxline:rxline@nhs.net

If you wish to submit a medicine or product request, enquiry or technical query please email the Medicines Management Admin
Email: MedicinesManagementAdmin@nhs.net