



Doncaster Place and Bassetlaw Place Medicines Optimisation Bulletin

March 2024

Traffic Light Status (TLS) additions and changes

TLS Integrated medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) List March 2024 Please Note: TLS status finalised at IMOC all items are classified as non-Formulary unless stated otherwise.

For a full list of items that were classified in March click this link below:

[TLS IMOC March 2024](#)

Useful hyperlinks for medicines Optimisation (MO)

To open Press control and click the link below

[IMOC Webpage](#)

[Doncaster Place Website](#)

[MPD](#)

Formulary updates and changes

[Doncaster and Bassetlaw Antimicrobial guidance](#) has been updated on the Website and MPD in line with the latest national guidance.

[SimAlvia](#) (alverine citrate and Simecicone) is now second line for IBS and can be found on the MPD. It may be prescribed first line in Secondary Care where bloating is the primary symptom.

Special Points of Interest

Semaglutide (Wegovy®) NICE TA and Holding Statement to support Doncaster Primary Care on the weight-loss drug semaglutide.

- Patients and prescribers should be assured that we are working with providers to develop a pathway in line with NICE to make both liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®) available, but neither should be prescribed by GPs.
- To see the full statement click this [Link](#)

New and updated Guidance Documents

[Doncaster & Bassetlaw Place Formulary Guidance for Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose \(SMBG\)](#)

Doncaster & Bassetlaw Place Formulary Guidance for Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) has been reviewed and contains products that are user-friendly and in line with NHS England advice. Many of these meters can connect to patient smart phones and can also link with diabetic nurses' software, where nurses can remotely monitor patients. Some specialist meters have been included for such patients with gestational diabetes and visual impairment, and those who need to test for ketones. A range of needles are included to ensure cost effective prescribing. The document can be found on the website and MPD [click here](#).

[Latest update March 2024 : NHS England Policy guidance: conditions for which over the counter items should not be routinely prescribed in primary care](#)

This policy guidance is issued as general guidance to reduce unwarranted variation, improve patient outcomes and provide value for money for the NHS. It provides recommendations for items that are available over the counter (OTC) and should not be routinely prescribed in primary care because:

- there is limited evidence of clinical effectiveness for the item
- the item would be prescribed for a condition that is self-limiting and will clear up on its own without the need for treatment
- the item would be prescribed for a condition that is appropriate for self-care
- For the full policy click this [Link](#)



Important Out of stocks Information

- [Fiasp FlexTouch \(insulin aspart\) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)

Regular out of stock emails are sent to prescribers to help with stock issues as they occur. This information changes weekly.

Optimise Rx Update

In the latest data from optimise Rx acceptance rates are up and nearer to the national average.

Cost-saving messages are still proving effective, and Doncaster is still making cost savings as a result of these prompts.

Overall Optimise Rx is still helping to make savings on prescribing and helping practices to adhere to the local formulary.

DIBS Update

The new DIBS programme is in development for 2024/25 and will be launched soon. Your Locality Lead Pharmacists will be contacting you in the coming month to arrange a meeting to discuss the new work plan.

To keep informed of your progress you can find the DIBS page on the website by clicking this [link](#)

MHRA Safety Updates

Acenocoumarol/Warfarin and tramadol: concomitant use is not recommended.

- A Coroner's Reg 28 report highlighted a patient admitted on warfarin who had been prescribed tramadol. At the time of prescribing the INR was 3.3, but when admitted 2 weeks later the INR was 11.6. Reversal medication was prescribed but patient deteriorated and sadly died.
- The inquest concluded that the patient died "as a result of a generally unknown interaction between warfarin and tramadol which caused exceptional thinning of her blood" which resulted in an intraparenchymal and subarachnoid haemorrhage.
- The 'Matters of Concern' raised by the coroner were that this interaction was not listed in the BNF and there was therefore "nothing to warn the prescribing doctor of any possible interaction" For further information regarding this report click this [link](#)
- There will be an OptimiseRx prompt added to Doncaster clinical systems prompt added to remind prescribers of this risk.

Codeine linctus (codeine oral solutions): reclassification to prescription-only medicine

- Codeine linctus is to be reclassified from a pharmacy-only medicine (P) to a prescription-only medicine (POM) owing to the risk of dependence, addiction, and overdose. Codeine linctus is only authorised for the treatment of dry cough and is only considered to be effective in the treatment of chronic cough lasting over 8 weeks.
- Coughs are commonly treated in primary care where self-care is often appropriate and advised. Other cough preparations remain available OTC. Patients with chronic coughs or dependence will require a clinical review.
- For more information on Gov.UK click this [link](#)

Pseudoephedrine: very rare risk of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) and reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS)

- Pseudoephedrine is commonly used, often purchased OTC, for the symptomatic relief of nasal and sinus congestion associated with the common cold and flu in adults and adolescents. It is also used for the treatment of the symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in patients, including use in children aged 2 to 12 years of age who have nasal congestion.
- Patients and caregivers should be advised to be alert to the symptoms for PRES and RCVS, to stop the medication immediately and to seek urgent medical attention if these occur. If someone presents with symptoms of PRES or RCVS, ask about their medication history.
- For more information on Gov.UK click this [link](#)

Antimicrobial Update

The latest PrescQipp data showed a slight increase in minocycline prescribing but on the whole prescribing of this medication is very low in Doncaster. Prescribers are reminded that this medication is categorised as GREY / non-formulary on the [MPD Section 5.1.3](#)

Amoxicillin is being prescribed for 5 days in line with national guidance, and we would like to remind prescribers that national guidance recommends 5 day prescribing for Doxycycline, but there is still a large number of patient being prescribed 7 day supply for common indications. There will be an OptimiseRx prompt added to Doncaster clinical systems prompt added to remind prescribers of this national guidance.

Trimethoprim prescribing for UTI (with low risk of resistance) is under the national median.

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We would welcome your feedback on the new style bulletin