



Winter 2022

Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee Newsletter

1) Update on the merger of the Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee and the Hull and East Riding Prescribing Committee

Work continues to progress the merger of the two Humber APCs to form a single committee. The working group comprised of members from the two committees and other relevant stakeholder organisations is now meeting monthly to review and merge the contents of both formularies, one BNF chapter at a time, commencing with Chapter 4, CNS.

2) Formulary Amendments and Additions

Name of Drug	RAG Rated	Information
Sodium Hydroxide 10% solution	Green	For podiatry use only , for nailed avulsion
Acetic Acid 10% solution	Green	For podiatry use only , for neutralising sodium hydroxide 10%
Colesevelam	Grey (non-formulary)	Non-formulary for the management of dyslipidaemia

Dalteparin has also replaced tinzaparin, as the low molecular weight heparin of choice on the Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee formulary, which also aligns us with Hull and East Riding Prescribing Committee. Its 'traffic-light' status (RAG-rating) varies, according to indication:



- Treatment of DVT/PE;
- Prophylaxis in orthopaedic patients with non-surgical lower limb immobilisation (e.g. post fracture);
- Patients with solid tumours on extended treatment;
- Medical prophylaxis in high risk patients at home or in a care home.



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- Pre- op and post op use as a temporary alternative to warfarin / DOAC when indicated;
- Medical prophylaxis for patients whilst in hospital;
- Post op use in orthopaedic surgery and patients who have had major surgery to the abdomen or pelvis;
- Prophylaxis of VTE in oncology patients on VTE inducing therapy;
- In women with risk factors for VTE during pregnancy and up to 6 weeks post-partum.

3) Items Approved at APC

Here is a table of guidelines added or amended, since the Autumn 2021 Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee newsletter. All Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee documents may be found on the APC subsection of the NLG internet site, located at: <https://www.nlg.nhs.uk/resources/area-prescribing-committee-formulary/> :

Guideline or Pathway	New or Updated
Guidelines for the Prescribing of Rifaximin for Hepatic Encephalopathy	New
Prescribing of Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWHs) in North & North East Lincolnshire, V1.0	New
NLaG Care Pathway for Type 2 Diabetes Management, V1.0	New
Shared Care Guidelines for the Prescribing and Monitoring of Lithium, V8	Updated
Guidelines for the Appropriate use of Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) for Adults in Primary Care	Updated
Guidance on the Treatment and Management of Infection in Primary Care, V6	Updated
Path Links Antibiotic Formulary and Prescribing Advice for Adult Patients, V8.0	Unchanged, but added to APC subsection of the NLG internet site



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4) NICE Technical Appraisals

NICE TA	Indication	RAG rating
TA 694	<u>Bempedoic acid with ezetimibe for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia</u>	RED
TA 704	<u>Trastuzumab deruxtecan for treating HER2-positive unresectable or metastatic breast cancer after 2 or more anti-HER2 therapies</u>	RED
TA 705	<u>Atezolizumab monotherapy for untreated advanced non-small-cell lung cancer</u>	RED
TA 709	<u>Pembrolizumab for untreated metastatic colorectal cancer with high microsatellite instability or mismatch repair deficiency</u>	RED
TA 711	<u>Guselkumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis after inadequate response to DMARDs</u>	RED
TA 712	<u>Enzalutamide for treating hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer</u>	RED
TA 713	<u>Nivolumab for advanced non-squamous non-small-cell lung cancer after chemotherapy</u>	RED
TA 715	<u>Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab and abatacept for treating moderate rheumatoid arthritis after conventional DMARDs have failed</u>	RED
TA 249	<u>Dabigatran etexilate for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in atrial fibrillation</u>	GREEN
TA 256	<u>Rivaroxaban for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with atrial fibrillation</u>	GREEN
TA 275	<u>Apixaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation</u>	GREEN
TA 355	<u>Edoxaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation</u>	GREEN
TA 720	<u>Chlormethine gel for treating mycosis fungoides-type cutaneous T-cell lymphoma</u>	RED
TA 721	<u>Abiraterone for treating newly diagnosed high-risk hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer</u>	RED



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NICE TA	Indication	RAG rating
TA 722	Pemigatinib for treating relapsed or refractory advanced cholangiocarcinoma with FGFR2 fusion or rearrangement	RED
TA 723	Bimekizumab for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis	RED
TA 724	Nivolumab with ipilimumab and chemotherapy for untreated metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer	RED
TA 725	Abemaciclib with fulvestrant for treating hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer after endocrine therapy	RED
TA 728	Midostaurin for treating advanced systemic mastocytosis	RED
TA 737	Pembrolizumab with platinum- and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for untreated advanced oesophageal and gastro-oesophageal junction cancer	RED
TA 739	Atezolizumab for untreated PD-L1-positive advanced urothelial cancer when cisplatin is unsuitable	RED
TA 740	Apalutamide with androgen deprivation therapy for treating high-risk hormone-relapsed non-metastatic prostate cancer	RED
TA 741	Apalutamide with androgen deprivation therapy for treating hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer	RED
TA 744	Upadacitinib for treating moderate rheumatoid arthritis	RED
TA 746	Nivolumab for adjuvant treatment of resected oesophageal or gastro-oesophageal junction cancer	RED



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4) MHRA Alerts

Here is a summary table of safety issues with medicines from the last four months:

Date of issue	Product	Problem
18/10/2021	Tofacitinib (Xeljanz ▼)	Tofacitinib should not be used in patients older than 65 years of age, people who are current or past smokers, or individuals with other cardiovascular (such as diabetes or coronary artery disease) or malignancy risk factors unless there are no suitable treatment alternatives.
18/10/2021	Chloral hydrate, cloral betaine (Welldorm):	The paediatric indication for chloral hydrate (for children aged 2 years and older) and cloral (previously chloral) betaine (children aged 12 years and older) has been restricted to short-term treatment (maximum 2 weeks) of severe insomnia only when the child or adolescent has a suspected or definite neurodevelopmental disorder and when the insomnia is interfering with normal daily life. Chloral hydrate and cloral betaine should only be used when other therapies (behavioural and pharmacological) have failed.
20/11/2021	Yellow fever vaccine (Stamaril):	A standardised pre-vaccination checklist has been introduced to ensure the yellow fever vaccine is indicated for the intended travel destination and to enable vaccinators to identify existing contraindications or precautions in individuals before vaccination.
20/11/2021	Adrenaline auto-injectors:	Emerade 300 and 500 microgram adrenaline auto-injectors have been re-supplied to the market following the implementation of corrective actions – patients and their caregivers should be provided with training and advice specific to their prescribed adrenaline auto-injector.
10/12/2021	Haloperidol	We remind healthcare professionals that elderly patients are at an increased risk of adverse neurological and cardiac effects when being treated with haloperidol for delirium. The lowest possible dose of haloperidol should be used for the shortest possible time, and cardiac and extrapyramidal adverse effects should be closely monitored.
10/12/2021	Venetoclax (Venclyxto ▼):	Fatal cases of tumour lysis syndrome (TLS) have been reported, some occurring in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia receiving the lowest venetoclax dose used in the dose-titration schedule. For all patients, it is important to strictly adhere to the dose-titration schedule and to the measures to minimise the risk of TLS as outlined in the updated Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).



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Date of issue	Product	Problem
10/12/2021	Dapagliflozin (Forxiga):	The authorisation holder for dapagliflozin has withdrawn the indication for type 1 diabetes mellitus. The removal of the type 1 diabetes indication is not due to any new safety concerns and the other indications of dapagliflozin are unchanged.
22/01/2022	Brolucizumab (Beovu ▼):	Risk of intraocular inflammation and retinal vascular occlusion increased with short dosing intervals Maintenance doses of brolucizumab (after the first 3 doses) should not be given at intervals of less than 8 weeks apart
22/01/2022	Paclitaxel formulations (conventional and nab-paclitaxel):	Caution required due to potential for medication error Albumin-bound paclitaxel formulations for infusion (nab-paclitaxel; brand names Abraxane, Pazenir) differ from conventional paclitaxel medicines in their authorised indications, pharmacokinetics, recommended dosages, and preparation and administration instructions. Healthcare professionals should use caution when prescribing, dispensing, preparing, and administering any paclitaxel formulations to prevent medication errors, which have the potential to cause harm.

For advice on these problems and more comprehensive information, the latest MHRA Alerts are published here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-safety-update-monthly-newsletter

5)The Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee joint-formulary on netFormulary

The Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee joint-formulary is available at: www.apcnlgformulary.nhs.uk

The formulary holds information about medicines and their formulary status, including their traffic light status (or RAG-rating), so that prescriber responsibilities are clear. Pathways, NICE and APC policies are linked to this, as well as APC minutes and policies.

This is an active formulary which is being continually updated. Please feel free to provide feedback or comments to the Northern Lincolnshire Interface Pharmacist, **Andy Karvot** at a.karvot@nhs.net

The netFormulary app is now being rolled out. Information on how to install the app can be found on our netFormulary front-page, under the 'How To Guide' link.