

Our Ref: DC/NB

30th January 2025

To: Prescribing Clinicians and Pharmacists within the Barnsley locality

Dear Colleague

Re: Summary of Key Points from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee Meeting on 8th January 2025.

The main outcomes of the meetings were: -

Prescribing Guidelines/Resources

South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) Approved

The following South Yorkshire IMOC approved resources were received by the Committee for information:

- South Yorkshire Summary of National Guidance for Lipid Optimisation in Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD ([SY_lipid-Management-Pathway- V1.0.pdf](#))
- SY ICS Medicines Adherence Support Pre-assessment & review form (https://syics.co.uk/download_file/view/6487/1640)

These can be accessed via the direct links above or via the 'South Yorkshire IMOC Guidance documents' blue drop down header tab within the South Yorkshire IMOC section of the ICB website: [South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee :: South Yorkshire I.C.B](#)

A holding page for each guideline has also been added to the BEST website along with a link to the South Yorkshire IMOC website and information on where the guidance can be located:

- [South Yorkshire Summary of National Guidance for Lipid Optimisation in Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD \(IMOC Approved\) - BEST](#)
- [Meds: SY ICS Medicines Adherence Support Pre-assessment & review form \(IMOC Approved\) - BEST](#)

A link to the holding page on the BEST website for the South Yorkshire lipid guidance is also available on the Barnsley Formulary.

Amber G / Shared Care Guidelines

SY ICB Shared Care Protocol for lithium for adults within mental health services in Sheffield and Barnsley [NEW joint Shared Care Guideline with Sheffield]

It was agreed to produce a joint Barnsley and Sheffield Shared Care Guideline as similar arrangements are in place for the prescribing and monitoring of lithium. The guideline is based on the NHS England Shared Care Guideline template for Lithium: [NHS England » Shared Care Protocols \(SCPs\)](#).

The joint Sheffield and Barnsley Shared Care Protocol will replace the current Barnsley Place Shared Care Guideline and will be available on the BEST website and via the Barnsley formulary in due course.

Barnsley Shared Care Guideline for the use of anticonvulsants as mood stabilisers [UPDATED]

This guideline has received a routine update. IMOC approved wording regarding MHRA advice around valproate has also been added.

The updated guideline will be available on the BEST website in due course.

Other

Barnsley Primary Care Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines

In the December 2024 APC Memo, information was included on accessing the 'Barnsley Hospital and Rotherham Adult Antimicrobial Guidelines' and 'Barnsley Hospital and Rotherham Paediatric and Neonatal Antimicrobial Guidelines'. Please note that these are secondary care guidelines and links were added to BEST and the Barnsley Formulary for information purposes.

As a reminder, for primary care prescribing of antimicrobials, the APC previously agreed to adopt the NICE/UKHSA Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance - managing common infections ([link](#) to latest version December 2024).

The summary is a rapid reference containing recommendations around antimicrobial prescribing for a range of different infections and is updated at least quarterly. It is currently hosted on the BNF.org website at the following link:

[BNF hosts antimicrobial summary guidance on behalf of NICE and PHE - BNF Publications.](#)

The Barnsley supporting guideline remains in place for primary care clinicians ([primary-care-antimicrobial-guidance-barnsley-supporting-information.pdf](#)) and is intended to be used in conjunction with the latest version of the NICE/UKHSA summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance - managing common infections.

This information can also be accessed via the BEST website: [Antibiotic /Antimicrobial -Prescribing Guidelines - BEST](#).

Shortage of Sytron® (sodium feredetate - iron 27.5mg/5ml) oral solution sugar-free

As referred to in the December 2024 APC meeting, there is a shortage of Sytron® oral solution (anticipated re-supply date October 2025). BHNFT are using an alternative brand of sodium feredetate 27.5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free (SodiFer) instead of Sytron® for all patients usually given Sytron®, including premature babies. NOTE: SodiFer is not a medicinal product but is classified as a food supplement.

It was agreed to add a link on the Barnsley formulary to the SPS Medicines Supply Tool: [Shortage of Sytron \(sodium feredetate – iron 27.5mg/5ml\) oral solution sugar free – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#). To access the SPS Medicines Supply Tool, the user will need to register and create an account.

Accessing Guidelines

Prescribing guidelines, shared care and amber G guidelines can be accessed via the Barnsley formulary or BEST website:

<http://www.barnsleyformulary.nhs.uk/>

[Prescribing guidelines - BEST](#)

[Shared care and Amber G guidelines - BEST](#)

As noted in previous memos, a recent change to the BEST platform resulted in many of the existing links embedded within the formulary and ScriptSwitch to specific guidelines on the BEST website no longer working. Work continues to progress to address this. In the interim please notify deborah.cooke@nhs.net or joanne.howlett2@nhs.net if you identify any links within the formulary or ScriptSwitch which are not working. Guidelines can also continue to be accessed via the BEST website directly using the above links.

Healthcare professionals (including primary and secondary care clinicians and community pharmacists) are encouraged to report any medicines related interface issues (examples include shared care, prescribing guideline, formulary or discharge related issues), particularly where guidelines are not being complied with, to the following email address: BarnsleyAPCReport@nhs.net.

Barnsley Formulary Updates

The Committee noted the traffic light classifications recently assigned by the South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee and the following formulary positions were agreed by the Committee:

Drug	Formulary Indication	Barnsley Formulary status (including traffic light classification)
Horizon Scanning January IMOC		
Thiamine hydrochloride injection	Thiamine deficiency conditions where oral therapy is not possible; treatment of Wernicke’s encephalopathy associated with alcohol addiction and/or alcohol withdrawal syndrome and prevention of Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome; treatment of peripheral neuropathy (dry beriberi) and heart failure (wet beriberi) due to thiamine malabsorption; treatment of anorexia – refeeding syndrome	Formulary red 250mg in 5mL ampoules. New licensed intramuscular injection/intravenous infusion formulation

MHRA Drug Safety Update

The December 2024 MHRA Drug Safety Update can be accessed at the following link: [Drug Safety Update Dec 24](#)

There were no issues relating to primary care.

Kind Regards



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cc: Medicines Optimisation Team (Barnsley Place)
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Area Prescribing Committee Members (Secretary to the APC to circulate)
Local Medical Committee (Secretary to the LMC to circulate)
Alex Molyneux, South Yorkshire ICB
Heidi Taylor, South Yorkshire ICB
Charlotte McMurray, South Yorkshire ICB
Govinder Bhogal, South Yorkshire ICB