



# August 2021 Bulletin

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## New submissions

Elec care Milk

AMBER 2

Infant formula for severe cow's milk allergy

## News from the APC - updated/new documents on the APC website:

- [Amiodarone shared care protocol \(new\)](#)
- [Amiodarone information sheet \(new\)](#)
- [Anaemia in IBD pathway \(update\)](#)
- [Anaemia in IBD - Ferric Maltol \(update\)](#)
- [Agomelatine information sheet \(new\)](#)
- [Lactose intolerance guideline \(update\)](#) and [patient information leaflet \(update\)](#)
- [Benzodiazepine and z-hypnotic guidance \(new\)](#)
- Antimicrobial guideline (updates)
  - [C.Difficile](#)
  - [Acne](#)
- [Hypertriglyceridaemia guideline \(update\)](#)

## Fentanyl patch (Opiodur®)

Opiodur® is now the preferred brand for prescribing in primary care. Secondary care will prescribe this generically at transfer of care so that primary care can prescribe Opiodur® for new patients. A switch to this brand is expected to achieve significant cost savings.

## Varenicline (Champix®)

Currently unavailable - all patients currently prescribed this treatment require review and should be directed to smoking cessation services.

## RED traffic light classification update

Updated to "No new patients to receive prescriptions in primary care. Patients already receiving Red medicines in primary care should be handled on a case by case basis with support from the Medicines Optimisation team".

## Levothyroxine oral solution

The MHRA advocates switching to an oral solution if symptoms are not adequately controlled on a consistent tablet formulation. Any patient in whom this is being considered should be discussed with a specialist. The cost of oral solution is significant and there are risks associated with the availability of several strengths.

## Coronavirus (COVID19) FAQs - update

The COVID19 FAQs on shared care and high risk medicines have been retired.

Monitoring of these medicines should return to normal as per the respective APC shared care protocols and prescribing guidelines. There is a national shortage of blood bottles but current advice from NHS England and NHS Improvement is that clinically urgent testing should continue; including if the test is essential for safe prescribing of medication.

# Horizon Scanning, Formulary amendments and traffic light changes

## Formulary amendments:

- Buprenorphine (Subutex® and Espranor®) - clarified as **AMBER 2** only for GPs with special interest commissioned by public health to provide substance misuse services
- Methadone 1mg/mL oral solution - clarified as **AMBER 2** only for GPs with special interest commissioned by public health to provide substance misuse services.
- Buprenorphine injection (Buvidal®) - **RED** for opioid dependence, restricted to commissioned community substance misuse service providers only.
- Clonazepam - clarified as **Amber 2** for treatment of REM sleep disorders in Parkinsons Disease in line with NICE guidance.
- Ephedrine 0.5% and 1% nasal drops - discontinued May 21, non formulary
- Insulin Aspart (Novorapid®) - added names Flexpen and Flextouch to clarify devices available
- Entonox - reclassified as **RED**, only used by specialist services in primary care
- Fentanyl patch (Opiodur®) - brand added as **Amber 2**.

## Horizon scanning:

- ⇒ Alimemazine sugar free solution -Zentiva® brand adopted as most cost effective available.
- ⇒ Insulin Aspart (Trurapi®) - **GREY** no formal assessment
- ⇒ Action reliever knee brace (Thuasne) - **GREY**
- ⇒ Dapagliflozin (Forxiga®) - **GREY** no formal assessment for CKD

## Current work in development

- Neuropathic pain guideline (update)
- Phosphate binders shared care protocol (update)
- APC FAQs for patients (update)
- Type 2 diabetes guideline (update)
- Gastroprotection with antithrombotics (new)
- Eye Lubricant formulary (update)
- Aminosalicylates in Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Adults (update)
- Dronedarone SCP (update)
- Cows Milk Allergy (update)
- Lithium Prescribing Guideline (update)
- Overarching Pain Management Guideline (new)
- Unlicensed “Specials” – alternatives and options for prescribing (update)
- Managing Behaviour and Psychological Problems in Dementia Guideline (update)
- Vitamin B12 Treatment Guideline (update)
- Vitamin D Guideline for Adults (update)
- Glycopyrronium (update)

Upcoming NICE publications	Type	Anticipated publication
Depression in adults: treatment and management (update)	Guidance	May 2022
Myalgic encephalomyelitis (or encephalopathy)/chronic fatigue syndrome: diagnosis and management	Guidance	TBC
Esketamine for treatment-resistant depression	TA	TBC
Pitolisant hydrochloride for treating excessive daytime sleepiness caused by obstructive sleep apnoea	TA	TBC

The work of the NAPC is supported and managed by the interface team below. They can be contacted via [nnccg.nottsapc@nhs.net](mailto:nnccg.nottsapc@nhs.net)

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