

May 2023 Bulletin

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~ Biosimilar Insulins

New submissions:

Selenium for deficiency associated with therapeutic low protein diets	AMBER 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selenase® oral solution and 200 mcg tablets. • For those with plasma selenium below the laboratory reference range, before they develop any clinical symptoms which may be severe and irreversible if deficiency is prolonged. • Supplemented until a follow up blood test shows that the deficiency has been corrected.
Finerenone for treating Chronic Kidney Disease in Type 2 Diabetes	AMBER 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finerenone is recommended as an option for treating stage 3 and 4 chronic kidney disease (with albuminuria) associated with type 2 diabetes in adults as an add-on to optimised standard care. • In line with NICE TA877.
Prasugrel for use in Interventional Neuroradiology (INR) procedures	AMBER 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance dose and duration will be determined by the initiating specialist and communicated on any discharge summary. • Common practice is to use 5mg daily to limit potential bleeding complications and continue for approximately 5 months in total, but this may vary with higher-risk individuals.

News from the APC - updated/new documents:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restless Legs Treatment algorithm • Alternatives to using an Unlicensed "Special" • COPD Exacerbation Rescue Medication • Children and Young People Asthma Guidance • Adult Asthma Treatment Summary • Guidance on MART • Antipsychotics Guideline - interim update • Headache in Adults Pathway • Policy for the prescribing and supply of unlicensed and off-label medication • Opioid Deprescribing in Non-cancer Pain • Biosimilar FAQ's • Freestyle Libre and Dexcom One for T2 diabetes • Guideline for the use of Buccal Midazolam in patients under paediatric care • Liothyronine patient information leaflet | <p>Antimicrobial Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetic Foot Ulcer • Eradication of H.pylori • Leg Ulcers and Pressure Sores • Mastitis and Breast Abscess • Otitis Media • MRSA Infection Control and Empirical Antibiotic Treatment. |
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The work of the NAPC is supported and managed by the interface team.
 They can be contacted via nnicb-nn.nottsapc@nhs.net
www.nottsapc.nhs.uk
www.nottinghamshireformulary.nhs.uk



APC webinars

A pre-recorded APC update is available to view on our [YouTube channel](#)



Our Podcasts

[Prescribing and Interface Learning Sessions \(PILS\)](#) is a podcast created by the Interface Team to deliver the latest APC updates in a quick format.

Episodes 4 and 5 cover [Resources for Pain Management](#) and [Amiodarone Medicines Safety Work](#). Please give us your feedback by emailing the [Interface Team](#).

Horizon scanning, formulary amendments and traffic light changes

GREY

Pholcodine - all products recalled by MHRA.

Gefapixant - for treatment of refractory or unexplained chronic cough. Currently, there is no marketing authorisation in the UK, although a NICE TA is expected during 2023.

Zavegepant (Zavzpret[®]) - nasal spray for migraine.

Fezolinetant - a 'nonhormonal treatment for moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause'. A NICE TA is expected during 2024.

AVAXIM[®] Junior, suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe, Hepatitis A vaccine (inactivated, adsorbed) - active immunisation for children from 1 year up to and including 15 years of age. Not yet listed in the green book. Classified as GREY, no formal assessment, until the green book is updated.

AMBER 3

Pizotifen - added to the Adult Headache Pathway and classification changed from **GREY**.

Sitagliptin - brand name Januvia[®] removed due to patent expiry and availability of generics.

GREEN

Levomepromazine hydrochloride 5 mg/ml oral solution (Levorol[®]) – liquid added as a licensed option for those unable to swallow tablets. High cost will be highlighted on the formulary.

OTHER

Assicco[®] tablets - most cost effective preparation of glycopyrronium when prescribed as Assicco[®] tablets. Branded prescribing will be promoted via OptimiseRx. Sialanar[®] remains the product of choice in children.

Feature of the month

Biosimilar insulins

Generic Name	Originator brand	Biosimilar
Insulin glargine	Lantus [®]	Semglee [®]
Insulin lispro	Humalog [®]	Admelog [®]
Insulin aspart	Novorapid [®]	Trurapi [®]

[Biosimilars](#) offer the same clinical effectiveness and safety as their reference products, but usually at substantially lower costs. The use of biosimilars, therefore, has the potential to deliver significant savings to the NHS.

NICE, NHS England, the MHRA and EMA all support the use of biosimilars and state that **biosimilars are interchangeable with the original biological product and with other biosimilars** when approved by a prescriber. There is no scientific rationale to expect different clinical outcomes when switching between other biosimilars of the same originator product.

If just 20% of the above insulin brands currently prescribed within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire were switched to a biosimilar equivalent, **savings of approx. £100K per year** could be achieved.

Prescribers and patients should share decisions about initiating treatment with a biosimilar or switching from treatment with the originator product to a biosimilar where appropriate.