



# November 2023 Bulletin

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## New submissions:

<b>Progesterone pessary for the prevention of preterm births</b>	<b>AMBER 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved in line with <a href="#">NICE NG25</a>; prophylactic vaginal progesterone to prevent preterm birth (off label).</li> <li>Treatment with vaginal progesterone should start between 16 and 24 weeks and continue until at least 34 weeks of pregnancy.</li> </ul>
<b>Rimegepant for preventing migraine in adults</b>	<b>AMBER 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved in accordance with <a href="#">NICE TA906</a> for preventing migraines in adults.</li> <li>If the patient responds to treatment at their specialist 12-week review, Primary Care can continue the prescription.</li> </ul>
<b>Ivabradine for postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS)</b>	<b>AMBER 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">British Heart Foundation</a> and <a href="#">POTS UK</a> recognise ivabradine as a treatment option for POTS.</li> <li>Off Label indication.</li> </ul>
<b>Cenobamate</b>	<b>AMBER 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For use in line with <a href="#">NICE TA753</a>.</li> <li>Prescribing should only be transferred to Primary Care only once the patient's treatment had been stabilised.</li> </ul>
<b>Empagliflozin for treating chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction</b>	<b>AMBER 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved in line with <a href="#">NICE TA 929</a></li> </ul>
<b>Intranasal naloxone (Nyxoid®) for substance misuse</b>	<b>AMBER 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribed or supplied by Substance Misuse Services to patients assessed as at high-risk of opioid overdose according to an agreed protocol.</li> <li>A small number of patients may require a replacement supply from GP.</li> <li>A Primary Care prescribing guideline is being developed.</li> </ul>
<b>Ferric maltol for iron deficiency anaemia</b>	<b>Amber 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic light reclassification to support Primary Care initiation in line with <a href="#">ferric maltol prescribing pathway</a>.</li> <li>Ferric maltol may be considered as an alternative option to IV iron for those intolerant of/ failed on two or more first line oral iron salts including at reduced dosage.</li> </ul>





## APC webinars

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



## Our Podcasts

**Latest editions** - [Medicines Management Facilitators \(MMFs\)](#)  
[Antimicrobials—Acne \(Medicine Safety\)](#)

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

- Rheumatology Shared Care Protocols
  - [Leflunomide](#), [sulfasalazine](#), [ciclosporin](#), [hydroxychloroquine](#), [methotrexate](#), [azathioprine](#)
- [Ferric maltol prescribing guidance](#)
- [Palliative Care Pocketbook](#)
- [Lamotrigine Bipolar Disorder Information Sheet](#)

### Horizon scanning, formulary amendments and traffic light changes

#### AMBER 1

- Affenid XL® (methylphenidate) highlighted as a cost effective brand choice.

#### GREEN

- Bupivacaine and Adrenaline - temporary traffic light change for minor operations in Primary care due to unavailability of .Xylocaine (lidocaine) and adrenaline injection

#### GREY

- Omeprazole 1 mg/ml powder for oral suspension - 4mg/ml is the preferred regional strength.
- Azathioprine 75mg and 100mg tablets - [concerns about risk of overdose with higher strengths](#).
- Rivastigmine (Zeyzef®) twice weekly 4.6 mg/24 h and 9.5mg/24hr transdermal patches. Alzest® patches applied every day is the preferred brand locally.
- Metaperex® capsule containing RRR- $\alpha$ -tocopherol 280 mg (equivalent to 400IU of Vitamin E)

### Feature of the month

#### [Should I stop my benzodiazepine or z-drug?](#)

NICE have produced a patient decision aid to support conversations between patients and healthcare professionals. This decision aid can help if patients have been prescribed a benzodiazepine or z-drug for anxiety or sleeping problems and are thinking about stopping it or reducing the dose. It can help patients to talk about this with their healthcare professional.

The APC wish all our readers  
a very merry Christmas!

The work of the NAPC is supported and managed by the ICB interface team.

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