

Introduction to the Formulary

The contents of this formulary are reviewed on a rolling programme by the Formulary Liaison Group (members include Secondary Care and Primary Care Clinicians and Pharmacists) and is approved by the Drug and Therapeutics Committee in Secondary Care and the appropriate forum in Primary Care. Advice is sought from an appropriate consultant, where specialism is required.

NICE guidance is specifically referenced numerous times throughout the medicines formulary. Where there is no specific reference to NICE guidance, recommended treatments are available. Where numerous therapeutics options are all recommended by NICE for the same condition, the formulary may express preference for one or more agents.

For a full list of NICE guidance, visit: www.nice.org.uk.

Aim of the Formulary

The aim of this policy is to rationalise prescribing in order to promote the safe, effective and economic use of medicinal products.

Using the Formulary in Primary Care

The Formulary provides guidance on the hierarchy of prescribing choices in Primary Care. Consideration should be given to prescribing first line choices where possible.

Using the Formulary in Secondary Care

Only those items contained in the formulary are available for prescription when initiating new treatment unless:-

1. In line with a written agreement between a consultant/group of consultants or directorate and the hospital pharmacy department. This is termed an item for restricted prescribing. These are generally hospital-only medicines or a medicine where additional cost is only justified after specialist assessment.
2. Rarely, a prescriber may choose to prescribe outside of the formulary because, for example, formulary options are contraindicated in a specific patient whereas other options are appropriate. In these circumstances, it is recommended that the non-formulary use is discussed with either:
 - Lee Wilson, Consultant Pharmacist, BDGH, or
 - Lorraine Snelling, MI Pharmacist on ext. 3317 at DRI, or
 - Andrew Barker, Director of Pharmacy Services at DRI.

Where there is no urgency this should be managed via a new product request

3. When the treatment is part of a clinical trial.

Primary Care requests for new items for inclusion in the formulary

For Doncaster based Healthcare professionals an initial written request should be made via:

medicinesmanagementadmin@doncasterpct.nhs.uk

For Bassetlaw based Healthcare professionals an initial request should be made to Rob Wise, Medicines Management Lead Pharmacist – rob.wise@nhs.net

The appropriate forms will be forwarded to the Requestor.

Secondary Care requests for new items for inclusion in the formulary

New items will be considered for inclusion into the formulary only after a written request from a consultant. Initial requests should be made to

- Andrew Barker, Director of Pharmacy Services at DRI, or
- Lee Wilson, Consultant Pharmacist, BDGH.

Forms are available on the pharmacy intranet site. Although attendance is not normally required, the requesting consultant may be required to make a formal representation to the Drug and Therapeutics Committee. NICE guidance will be considered, and items in the NICE 'pipeline' may be approved or declined pending guidance by the institute. New antibiotics are only made available following approval by microbiology.

Format of the Formulary

Each formulary section comprises of a contents table followed by prescribing guidance. Any items for restricted prescribing are included at the end of the section.

Doncaster & Bassetlaw Medicines Formulary

Section 2.1: Cardiac Glycosides

Digoxin 62.5, 125 and 250microgram Tablets
Digoxin 50micrograms in 1ml Elixir

Digoxin 100micrograms in 1ml Paediatric Injection
Digoxin 500micrograms in 2ml Injection
Digoxin Specific Antibody Fragment Injection 38mg

Approved by Drug and Therapeutics Committee: February 2012

Items that would only be prescribed within secondary care are coloured **dark blue** (see above).

Local traffic light status is indicated in the contents by **red** or **amber** text. For further information, a definitions list can be found via:

<http://medicinesmanagement.doncasterpct.nhs.uk/documents/TLS%20Definition%20ist%20July%202012.xls>

Dosages in the formulary unless specifically stated apply only to adults. For dosages and information on using medicines in children, the [BNF for Children](#), a consultant paediatrician or a pharmacist should be consulted as appropriate.