

Glossary of Terms and Descriptions used in the Sheffield Formulary

Traffic Light system

Where an entry includes reference to the Traffic Light System the drug has been considered by the Area Prescribing Group and classified as one of the following:

BLACK - a drug which should not be initiated in Sheffield unless exceptional circumstances apply to the individual concerned and an Individual Funding Request (IFR) has been agreed by NHS Sheffield CCG.

The drug should not be withdrawn from patients already established on treatment but other treatment options should be considered at routine review.

RED - prescribing and on-going supply is normally undertaken by a consultant or other physician within a secondary care service, or by another commissioning arrangement. In some exceptional circumstances and following discussion between primary and secondary care, GPs may consider it to be in the patient's best interest for drugs in the Red section of the traffic light scheme to be prescribed in primary care.

AMBER – drugs that are initiated by a specialist but are suitable for GPs to continue on-going prescribing. The specialist should provide the GP with necessary information and support in order for treatment to be managed safely in primary care. Shared care guidelines (SCG) or prescribing guidelines may be available.

GREEN – these are medicines which are appropriate for initiation and ongoing prescribing in primary care.

Shared Care Guidelines

Shared Care Guidelines have been developed for a number of conditions, and set out the arrangements for clinical and prescribing responsibilities of specialist clinicians and GPs where joint care is considered appropriate and in the best interest of patients.

Details of current Shared Care Guidelines are available [Here](#)

Black Triangle ▼

This indicates a new product which is being intensively monitored by the CHM and MHRA. Any suspected adverse reactions for black triangle drugs must be reported using a yellow card. Yellow cards can be found on the internet <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or at the back of the BNF.

OTC

This indicates that the drug is available “Over the Counter” from a community pharmacy without prescription. The cost of a supply of the drug may be less than the prescription charge.

Review date July 2023