

## The Sheffield Area Prescribing Group Traffic Light Drug List

### Introduction

The Traffic Light Drug List (TLDL) provides guidance to Sheffield prescribers on prescribing responsibilities for selected medicines. It aims to provide understanding of where clinical and prescribing responsibility rests between specialists and GPs. It generally does not include: injectable preparations commissioned by NHS England; medicines that would only be administered in an acute setting; or commonly prescribed primary care medicines.

Usually individual medicines are listed but where numerous products are available OTC e.g. eyelid cleansing products, vitamins, then the group of medicines is listed. Each drug is classified under a black, red, amber or green classification; in some cases, medicines can appear in more than one category but this will be cross referenced.

Appropriate funding will be made available for all drugs that receive positive NICE technology appraisal, however not all of these drugs will be specifically listed in the TLDL.

### Unlicensed Medicines

Generally unlicensed medicines /off-label indications are not classified on the TLDL, though there are exceptions where local guidance has been developed to recommend such prescribing e.g. midodrine for orthostatic hypotension and ibandronic acid in post-menopausal women with breast cancer.

There may be occasions when prescribers choose to or are asked to prescribe unlicensed medicines or to prescribe off-label, e.g. ondansetron for nausea/vomiting in pregnancy, in which case advice can be sought from the Medicines Code (Chapter 21)

These references may also be useful:

[GMC Prescribing guidance: Prescribing Unlicensed Medicines](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/off-label-or-unlicensed-use-of-medicines-prescribers-responsibilities>

[MHRA Guidance on the Hierarchy for the use of Unlicensed Medicines](#) (see Appendix 2) this provides guidance only and each case should be considered on its individual merit.

**For use of medicines in children please refer to:**

<https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnfc/current/>  
[Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/search-for-a-leaflet/unlicensed-medicines/)  
<http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/search-for-a-leaflet/unlicensed-medicines/>

[Click here](#) for instructions on how to navigate the drug list.

## BLACK Drugs

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.

### Criteria

1. There is a clear NHS England Specialised Commissioning Group decision to not routinely fund usage of the drug.
2. There is a NICE recommendation that the drug should not be prescribed on the NHS for the condition specified.
3. A drug requiring specific commissioning arrangements to be clarified and put in place before prescribing can take place.
4. A drug in which the APG view of evidence of benefit over existing therapy does not justify routine availability. See [Sheffield STOP](#) list for full details and note circumstances where prescribing may be appropriate.

## RED Drugs

Prescribing and ongoing 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.

### Red traffic light drugs meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Require specialist assessment to enable patient selection, initiation, ongoing treatment and monitoring of efficacy, toxicity or adverse effects.
2. Specifically designated as "hospital only" either by product licence or by DH
3. Hospital initiated clinical trial materials used in accordance with the trial protocol

4. Not listed in the current BNF or BNF (C).
5. Being used to treat a condition that is not suitable for primary care prescribing because of disease specific requirements, complexity or defined commissioning arrangements

### **AMBER Drugs**

Drugs that are initiated by a specialist but are suitable for GPs to continue ongoing prescribing. The specialist to provide the GP with necessary information and support in order for treatment to be managed safely in primary care. Shared care protocols (SCP) or treatment guidelines may be available.

#### **Criteria**

1. Requiring specialist assessment to enable patient selection.
2. Requiring a period of monitoring by a specialist.
3. The initial prescription should normally be issued by the specialist unless the agreed SCP states otherwise.

### **GREEN Drugs**

These are medicines which are appropriate for initiation and ongoing prescribing in primary care. Due to the extensive number of green drugs, not all drugs are listed in the TLDL.

**You can search the document for specific drug names by using the Control + F function.**

To access the Find and Replace window press



then type in the first few letters of the drug name here the relevant section(s) will appear.

The screenshot displays a medical reference interface. On the left, a list of topics is visible, including 'Electronic Cigarettes', 'Eye lid cleansing products', 'Freestyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System', 'Levothyroxine/Liothyronine combinations', 'Liothyronine', 'Liraglutide (Saxenda)', 'Lorazepam', 'Melatonin (unlicensed)', 'Modafinil', 'Omega-3 Fatty Acid capsules', 'Risperidone', 'Sodium Oxybate', and 'Sodium Oxybate'. The main area shows a search result for 'Apomelone'. A red arrow points to the search input field where 'Apomelone' is entered. Below the search bar, there is a table with columns: 'Book', 'Chapter', 'Name', 'Cell', 'Value', and 'Formula'. The table contains one row with the value 'Apomelone'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'I could find'.

Book	Chapter	Name	Cell	Value	Formula
Working version v16	Drug list		AP010	Apomelone	