

Our Ref: DC/NB

9thth July 2026

To: Prescribing Clinicians and Pharmacists within the Barnsley locality

Dear Colleague

Re: Summary of Key Points from the Barnsley Area Prescribing Committee Meeting on 13th May 2026.

The main outcomes of the meeting were: -

South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) approved resources

SY ICB Guidance on switching children from liquid antibiotics to tablets/capsule medication [NEW]

This guidance has been produced by the children's antimicrobial stewardship team. It contains a practical conversion table to support healthcare professionals in translating liquid antibiotic doses into equivalent tablet or capsule doses, in paediatric patients aged over 4 years and weighing at least 12kg. It is intended to help clinicians confidently consider solid-dose options for children who may be suitable for them.

The guideline is available on the [SY Medicines Optimisation](#) website.

SY ICB Monitored Dosage System (MDS) Alternatives Patient Information Leaflet [NEW]

This new patient information leaflet explains what a Monitored Dosage System (MDS) is, outlines some of the potential safety and environmental considerations associated with MDS use and describes alternative approaches to support patients in managing their medicines.

The leaflet aims to raise awareness of these alternatives, in line with national guidance that medicines should remain in their original packaging wherever possible. It can be used to support discussions with patients who are not suitable for an MDS, or for those seeking further information about managing their medicines.

The leaflet is available on the [SY Medicines Optimisation](#) website.

Barnsley Prescribing Guidelines

Barnsley Wound Care Formulary [UPDATED]

The Barnsley Wound Care Formulary 2026-2027 was approved can be accessed via [SY ICB Medicines Optimisation](#).

The following Barnsley guidelines have been stepped down:

Barnsley Palliative Care Ketamine guidance

The guideline has been removed from the SY Medicines Optimisation website following the assignment of a red traffic light classification to ketamine by the SY IMOC.

Barnsley Glaucoma Guidelines

The Barnsley Glaucoma Management Guideline has been removed from the SY Medicines Optimisation website as it is beyond its review date and national guidance is available.

Links to the NICE visual summaries: '[Management options for people with ocular hypertension](#)' and '[Management options for people with chronic open angle glaucoma](#)' have been added to the Barnsley formulary. These should be used in conjunction with the information in the Barnsley formulary.

Barnsley Shared Care/Amber-G Guidelines

Barnsley Shared Care Guideline for the prescribing of DMARDs in Rheumatology – Methotrexate section [MINOR UPDATE]

Following a Prevention of Future Deaths Report involving a patient who was taking methotrexate and subsequently developed pancytopenia, the methotrexate section of the Shared Care Guideline for the prescribing of DMARDs in rheumatology patients, has been updated. This is to clarify that signs or symptoms such as a sore throat and /or sores in the mouth should be reported promptly to a **specialist or GP**. This is in line with the [Arthritis UK Methotrexate Patient Information Leaflet](#).

The updated shared care guideline will be available on the [SY Medicines Optimisation](#) website in due course.

Barnsley Ganciclovir 0.15% eye gel Amber-G guideline [STEPPED DOWN]

The Barnsley Ganciclovir Eye Gel Amber-G guideline has been removed from the SY Medicines Optimisation website following the assignment of a red traffic light classification to ganciclovir eye gel by the SY IMOC.

Other

Hydroxychloroquine – SNOMED codes for retinal monitoring

Patients on hydroxychloroquine without additional risk factors, should have retinal screening after 5 years of hydroxychloroquine therapy, and annually thereafter. Patients with additional risk factors (e.g. concomitant tamoxifen, eGFR<60ml/min/1.73m², doses greater than 5mg/kg/day, chloroquine use) should commence retinal screening after one year of treatment and annually thereafter. Further information can be found in the [Shared Care Guideline for the prescribing of DMARDs in rheumatology patients](#).

Clinicians are reminded to add a retinopathy screening code (e.g. hydroxychloroquine retinopathy screening SNOMED code 1104901000000103) to the patient's record, on receipt of the retinal monitoring result from ophthalmology.

Steroid Emergency Cards for Addison's Disease/Adrenal Insufficiency

Following two Prevention of Future Deaths reports received by NHS England, GPs and healthcare professionals are asked to remind patients with Addison's disease / adrenal insufficiency of the importance of carrying their Steroid Emergency Card.

This card is used to inform healthcare professionals, such as ambulance staff, that the patient's steroid medication cannot be stopped in circumstances where they are unable to communicate their health problems effectively.

[Steroid Emergency Cards](#) can be ordered from [PCSE online](#) or from [NHS Forms, Print, Exemptions, Cards and EIHC](#).

Patients should have their emergency plan written into their Universal Care Plan, where this is used.

Further information can be found on [NHS England's website](#).

Updates to IMOC application forms

The following IMOC application forms have been updated and are available on the [SY Notice Board](#) on the SY Medicines Optimisation website:

- Process for creating new and updating current shared care protocols or prescribing guidelines
- Shared care protocol & guideline document (new or updated) proposal form
- Traffic light proposal application form

Accessing Prescribing Guidelines / Medicines Optimisation Resources

Prescribing guidelines, shared care and amber G guidelines can be accessed via the South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation website:

<https://mot.southyorkshire.icb.nhs.uk/> (home page)

or

<https://mot.southyorkshire.icb.nhs.uk/search?locations=barnsley%2Csouth-yorkshire> (Barnsley section which is pre-populated to search for Barnsley place or South Yorkshire wide prescribing and clinical guidelines and other medicines optimisation related information).

Guidelines and other prescribing information can also be accessed via the Barnsley Joint Formulary:

<http://www.barnsleyformulary.nhs.uk/>

Barnsley Formulary Updates

The Committee noted the traffic light classifications recently assigned by the South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) and the following formulary positions were agreed by the Committee:

Drug	Indication	Barnsley Formulary status (including traffic light classification)
Horizon Scanning April and May 2026 IMOC		
Potassium citrate (new modified-release tablet formulation with new indication - Renodyra®)	Alkalinizing agent and indicated in adults for: - The treatment of patients with kidney stones and hypocitraturia, or chronic calcium oxalate stones. - The treatment and prevention of recurrent uric acid lithiasis with or without calcium lithiasis and cystine lithiasis. - The treatment of renal tubular acidosis with calcium nephrolithiasis.	Non-formulary red

Progesterone micronised vaginal preparations	Prevention of preterm birth. <i>Note: Different products have different licensed indications - refer to the SPC.</i>	Formulary amber-G (red traffic light classification for use during Assisted Reproductive Technology)
IMOC Sub-group TLDL March and April 2026 IMOC		
Alpha Tocopheryl (Vitamin E)	Following British National Formulary (BNF) advice	Formulary amber-G (previously formulary grey)
Ganciclovir 0.15% eye gel	Acute herpetic keratitis in adults.	Formulary red (previously formulary amber-G)
Ketamine	All licensed indications	Formulary red (previously formulary amber-G)
IMOC May 2026		
Bismuth subcitrate potassium, metronidazole, tetracycline hydrochloride (Pylera®)	H. Pylori eradication in combination with omeprazole. Note the licensed treatment is for 10 days.	Formulary green for first line or second line use only to treat H.Pylori in those with penicillin allergy. (previously non-formulary grey) See link to BNF Helicobacter pylori infection treatment summary for clinical scenarios where consideration may be indicated.
Cytisinicline (Cytisine)	Smoking cessation, as a treatment option, alongside behavioural support.	Formulary green (previously non-formulary grey) Commissioned services must be used as the standard pathway. Primary care prescribing is only permitted in exceptional circumstances where these services are inaccessible. Please see NICE CKS for supporting information.
Other		
Esomeprazole	Proton Pump Inhibitor	Formulary green The statement that capsules are more cost effective than tablets has been removed from the formulary as costs of the generic formulations are now similar.
Cetirizine	Non-sedating antihistamine	Formulary green
Indapamide	Essential hypertension	Formulary green. The 1.5mg MR tablets have a lower acquisition cost than the 2.5mg tablets.
Nitrofurantoin	Antibiotic	Formulary green. Formulation cost effectiveness guidance will be provided via decision support software rather than the formulary.
Fluticasone 50mcg / Azelastine 137mcg nasal spray	Relief of symptoms of moderate to severe seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis if monotherapy with either intranasal antihistamine or glucocorticoid is not considered sufficient.	Formulary green. It is now more cost-effective to prescribe generically instead of as the brand Dymista® or Flomister®.
Fezolinetant	For treating moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause.	Formulary red (previously non-formulary grey) NICE TA1143
Ruxolitinib cream	For treating non-segmental vitiligo in people 12 years and over.	Formulary red (previously non-formulary grey) TA1140 (replaces TA1088)

MHRA Safety Roundup

The MHRA Drug Safety Roundups can be accessed at the following link:

[Alerts, recalls and safety information: medicines and medical devices - GOV.UK](#)

Kind Regards



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cc: Medicines Optimisation Team (Barnsley Place)
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Area Prescribing Committee Members (Secretary to the APC to circulate)
Local Medical Committee (Secretary to the LMC to circulate)
Heidi Taylor, South Yorkshire ICB
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