

Please note that this document has not been updated for the 2026-27 incentive scheme. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for medicines optimisation switches/reviews, along with other supporting materials, were originally developed for use by Medicines Optimisation Team staff within NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Other organisations or groups choosing to use this resource does so at their own risk and NHS SY ICB accepts no liability for its use or application.

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for switching preparations
(generic unlicensed melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution SF and melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution to
branded generic Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution)**

Action(s) / Medication to be Switched	• Prescribe branded generic Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution for all new patients who require treatment with unlicensed generic melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR unlicensed generic melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution • Review all patients currently prescribed generic unlicensed generic melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR unlicensed generic melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution • and switch, where appropriate, to branded generic Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution It is recommended that any switches/changes to medication are only made by appropriately qualified, registered and authorised HCPs.
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Rationale	Generic prescribing is recognised as a sign of good practice in terms of consistency and safety, as well as generally being more cost effective. It allows any suitable generic (or equivalent branded product) to be dispensed, reduces the number of items to be held as stock in the pharmacy and can potentially reduce the delays in supplying medicines to the patient. Sometimes, the cost difference between a branded generic (BG) and generic (as listed in the DT) is so significant that in terms of cost-effectives, the BG is the most appropriate option to prescribe. In this instance, prescribing the BG Ceyesto® oral solution 1mg/ml would mean patients are receiving a licensed product as opposed to an unlicensed 'special'.
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Price comparison <i>Cost correct as per Drug Tariff and NHS List price (May 2024)</i>	Drug/Appliance (Brand / Branded generic)	Strength	Cost
	Melatonin (unlicensed special)	1mg/ml oral solution SF x 100ml	~£92.81
		5mg/5ml oral solution x 100ml	~£99.11
	branded generic Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution	1mg/ml x 100ml	£17.10

Exclusions	• Patients identified as previously having difficulty accepting changes to medication regimes. (known pts to Practice) • Patients previously tried the switch with a documented reason for changing back • Patients with a documented allergy / intolerance to any excipients • Patients on the end of life/palliative care register should be switched at the discretion of their care providing GP.		
Cautions	Refer to the current BNF and SPC		

New Medication Added	Prescribe at same dose/frequency/quantity as previous preparation. Double-check prescribed quantity matches dose and script duration.
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Emis/S1 consultation entry	Read Code consultation entry – Drug changed to cost effective alternative (XaJKo) (SNOMED: 408374000) Consultation entry to make - • generic unlicensed generic melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR unlicensed generic melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution • switched to branded generic Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution • Patient repeat template updated • Patient informed of change via SMS / letter
Follow Up	None
Communication to Patients	Preferred method of communication with patients to be agreed with individual practice. • A sample patient letter is attached on Appendix 1. • Suggested wording to include in SMS included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 - Example letter only

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Patient Name, Address.

Date

Dear Title Surname,

Change to Your Prescription for melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate).

Along with other GP Practices across Rotherham we are reviewing patients who are currently prescribed **for melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate)**. This is to ensure our patients continue to receive quality treatment but also use NHS resources in the most cost-effective manner.

You are currently prescribed **for melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate)**.

This treatment has been reviewed and updated to the **branded generic Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution**.

Please finish your current supply of **melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate)** medication before starting your new **Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution** medication.

As a practice we are constantly reviewing our repeat prescriptions to ensure patients get the most cost-effective treatment available, without affecting the quality of their care. This is also supported by NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (NHS SY ICB) and all GP Practices across Rotherham.

On behalf of the Doctors

Appendix 2 - Suggested text wording

Change to Your Prescription for melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate)

All GP Practices across Rotherham are reviewing patients who are currently prescribed **melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate)**. This is to ensure our patients continue to receive quality treatment but also use NHS resources in the most cost-effective manner. Your **melatonin 1mg/ml oral solution OR melatonin 5mg/5ml oral solution (delete which is inappropriate)** has been updated to the brand name **Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution** to save the NHS funds.