



IMOC Bulletin September 2026

South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee

Summary of outcomes from the September 2026 meeting

Resources and Contact Information

South Yorkshire IMOC and ICB prescribing guidelines and other medicines optimisation resources and information are available on the [SY ICB Medicines Optimisation website](#). IMOC application forms can be accessed via the [South Yorkshire Notice Board](#) section of the website.

South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation Team mailbox: syicb.syicbmedsopt@nhs.net.

At a Glance: Key Messages from the September 2026 IMOC Meeting

- ✓ New Single National Formulary prescribing categories and updated IMOC Prescribed Products Application Form.
- ✓ Updates made to the South Yorkshire Prescribed Product Categorisation List (previously known as the South Yorkshire Traffic Light Drug List).
- ✓ New South Yorkshire Primary Care Chronic Kidney Disease Management Guideline for Adults.
- ✓ Information provided on stock shortages and discontinued products.
- ✓ Updates around medicines and patient safety.
- ✓ Key changes to the NHS Community Pharmacy Hypertension Case-Finding Service.

New Single National Formulary Prescribing Categories

The IMOC has adopted the Single National Formulary (SNF) categorisation framework for the classification of medicines and prescribed products. From September 2026, all newly reviewed medicines and products will be assigned an SNF category instead of a traffic light status. Medicines with an existing traffic light status will retain this in the interim until reviewed and mapped to an SNF category.

How do the new SNF categories relate to the previous traffic light system?

Traffic Light Classification	Broad relationship to the new SNF categories
Green	Generally aligns with All Settings , although a small number may align with Specialist Advice
Amber-G	Generally aligns with Specialist Initiation and some products may align with Specialist Advice
Amber Shared Care	Generally aligns with Shared Care
Red	Generally aligns with Specialist Only
Grey	Generally aligns with Self-care or Do not prescribe

A summary table detailing the previous and new categorisation criteria and definitions has been developed and is available on the [SYMO website](#).

The IMOC Prescribed Products Application Form has been updated in line with the SNF categories and now also incorporates a proposed preferencing recommendation section (previously referred to as 'formulary positioning' e.g. first line, second line, hospital only etc). This will enable a streamlined process for the simultaneous consideration of category and preferencing recommendations.

Prescribed Products Categorisation Updates

Medicine/Product	Indication/other information	South Yorkshire IMOC Categorisation
Bisoprolol	Refer to local formularies and guidelines.	Category: All settings Preferencing recommendation: The first line choice beta-blocker depends on the indication, refer to local guidance where available. When bisoprolol is indicated use the lowest cost clinically appropriate formulation: consider standard tablets first, then orodispersible tablets, then oral solution.
Apixaban (Multiple classifications)	Anticoagulant for stroke and systemic embolism prevention in AF.	Category: All settings
Bempedoic acid with ezetimibe	For treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia TA694 .	Category: All settings SY Summary of National Guidance for Lipid Optimisation in the Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD .
Atogepant (Dual classification)	For treating migraine TA1172 .	Category for the acute treatment of migraine: All settings SY Neurology Migraine Management guideline to be updated . <i>Note: Atogepant for the prevention of migraine remains Amber-G.</i>
Glycopyrronium bromide cream	For treating severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis TA1175 .	Category: All settings <i>To be used only when lifestyle advice, topical aluminium-based antiperspirants and oral antimuscarinics have not controlled underarm sweating, or are contraindicated or not tolerated.</i>
Finerenone (Dual classification)	For treating chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction TA1182 .	Category: All settings for heart failure indications. <i>Note: Finerenone remains Amber for patients with CKD in Type 2 Diabetes in line with the SY SCP.</i>
Sodium Zirconium Cyclosilicate	Hyperkalaemia.	The category will change from red to specialist initiation once the South Yorkshire prescribing guideline is available on the SYMO website.
Ciclosporin (oral)	In line with existing place based shared care protocols.	Category: Shared Care
Mpox vaccine	Imvanex® is now licensed for Mpox (indicated for active immunisation against mpox, smallpox and disease caused by vaccinia virus in adults).	Category: Specialist only Preferencing recommendation: Only via sexual health clinics in line with national guidelines The green book smallpox and mpox UKHSA guidance
Progesterone injection (Gestone®) Relaunched product - previously discontinued	Dysfunctional uterine bleeding. Maintenance of early pregnancy in women with a history of ≥3 consecutive unexplained miscarriages, and in selected cases as an adjunct to infertility treatment.	Category: Specialist only Preferencing recommendation: Hospital only
Apixaban (Multiple classifications)	Prevention of VTE after hip or knee replacement.	Category: Specialist only
Mepolizumab	For maintenance treatment of uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with raised blood eosinophils TA1166 .	Category: Specialist only <i>Note: Mepolizumab previously had a Grey classification.</i>

Wegovy® (semaglutide) tablets	As an adjunct to diet and exercise for weight management in adults with a BMI of $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ (obesity), or $\geq 27\text{kg/m}^2$ to $< 30\text{kg/m}^2$ (overweight) with at least one weight-related comorbidity.	Category: Do not prescribe <i>Wegovy® tablets have been launched only for private prescribing, there is no NICE TA available. Note: as there are two brands of semaglutide tablets available with different licensed indications (Rybelsus® is licensed for type 2 diabetes), semaglutide tablets should be prescribed by brand.</i>
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The South Yorkshire ICB Prescribed Product Classification List can be accessed via [SY ICB Medicines Optimisation](#). Work is ongoing to standardise classifications across South Yorkshire. In the interim, for medicines which have not yet been classified by the South Yorkshire IMOC, please consult place TLDLs (Sheffield/Rotherham), Barnsley formulary (Barnsley) or Medicines & Products Directory [MPD] (Doncaster), all of which can be accessed via the above link to the South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation website.

SY Primary Care Guideline for the Management of CKD in Adults

A new [South Yorkshire Primary Care Guideline for the Management of Chronic Kidney Disease \(CKD\) in Adults](#) is now available, bringing together the latest NICE recommendations and local specialist advice into a practical, easy-to-use pathway for primary care teams.

The guideline supports clinicians with the diagnosis, classification, monitoring and management of CKD, including the use of eGFR and urine ACR testing, risk stratification, monitoring schedules, and referral criteria for specialist renal services. It also provides clear guidance on managing blood pressure, cardiovascular risk and diabetes (see dose adjustments advice for when SGLT2i is used alongside sulfonylureas and/or insulin).

A key focus is optimisation of renoprotective therapy, including timely use of ACE inhibitors/ARBs and SGLT2 inhibitors in eligible patients with and without type 2 diabetes, and consideration of finerenone in appropriate patients with diabetic kidney disease. The guideline also includes practical advice on monitoring requirements, sick day rules and patient self-management resources.

With CKD affecting a significant proportion of the adult population and contributing substantially to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, this guideline aims to support earlier identification, reduce disease progression and improve patient outcomes through consistent evidence-based care across South Yorkshire. Clinicians are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the pathway and incorporate it into routine practice.

Stock Shortages and Discontinued Products

- Calcitriol ointment (Silkis®), indicated for treatment of mild to moderately severe plaque psoriasis, has been discontinued. There are no alternative brands or generics of calcitriol ointment available.
- Celltrion UK Ltd is currently experiencing supply disruption with Stoboclo® 60mg/ml pre-filled syringe (denosumab) in the UK. To ensure continuity in supply, approval has been obtained from the MHRA to [supply the Irish product](#), which is expected to be on the UK market from July to December 2026. [Stoboclo®](#) is the selected biosimilar brand of denosumab 60mg for use in South Yorkshire.

Medicines and Patient Safety Update

A number of **MHRA safety communications** have been issued over the summer period.

Key updates include strengthened warnings regarding **ACE inhibitor-associated angioedema**, which may occur weeks, months or even years after treatment is started. Clinicians are reminded that ACE inhibitors should be stopped and not restarted if angioedema occurs. Clinicians are reminded of the distinction between allergic (histamine-mediated) and less commonly non-allergic (bradykinin-mediated) cases, as treatment strategies differ significantly and bradykinin-mediated angioedema does not respond to standard treatments.

A new contraindication has also been added for **domperidone** in patients with confirmed or suspected pheochromocytoma due to the risk of severe hypertension.

The MHRA has issued a reminder regarding the rare but potentially life-threatening risk of iatrogenic botulism following treatment with **botulinum toxin** products.

Several **medicines defects and recalls** have been notified, including a defect affecting **Xaggitin XL (methylphenidate)**, where some bottles may contain an incorrect tablet count. As this is a Schedule 2 Controlled Drug, the issue has been shared with Community Pharmacy and Controlled Drug Leads.

Device alerts include advice not to use **rectal catheters marketed for personal use in infants** due to limited evidence of benefit and the potential risk of harm.

There have also been a number of **medicines supply notifications**, including nifedipine MR tablets, sodium valproate Chronosphere® sachets and diclofenac ophthalmic products. Alternative prescribing advice has been incorporated into OptimiseRx alerts where appropriate.

For further information, please refer to the safety updates section of the IMOC minutes and MHRA communications.

NHS Community Pharmacy Hypertension Case-Finding Service

Key changes from September 2026

Community Pharmacy Teams

In short: The service is being refocused on finding undiagnosed hypertension – eligibility is tighter, and a few process requirements have changed. Full detail is in the revised NHS England specification (PRN02194) and CPE Briefing 016/26. A CPSY headline summary for community pharmacies is available [here](#).

General Practice Teams

In short: Community pharmacy referral criteria are tighter. The service is intended to identify previously undiagnosed hypertension, rather than provide routine BP monitoring. Please update signposting processes to reflect the revised eligibility criteria. A CPSY GP Surgery Guide is available [here](#).

Local queries can be directed to Community Pharmacy South Yorkshire via info@cpsy.org.uk

